



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW



Passive smoking in pregnancy causes gene mutation in babies

PREGNANT WOMEN exposed to other people's cigarette smoke are significantly more likely to have babies with genetic mutations linked to cancer, according to new research.

It is the first hard evidence to suggest that passive smoking can cause the same type of genetic damage in unborn infants as that found in adult smokers.

The implications are that an untold number of unborn

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

children are being put at risk as a result of their mothers being exposed to passive smoking while pregnant. Scientists say the results show there is a need for even tougher rules on smoking in public places.

A study in the United States of 12 newborn babies born to women who were exposed to passive smoking, and 12 in-

fants whose mothers were not subjected to other people's cigarettes, is the first to demonstrate that secondary tobacco smoke causes genetic mutations in the womb. The researchers, led by Barry Finegood, a paediatrician at the University of Vermont in Burlington, analysed blood samples taken from the babies at birth for mutations in a gene that is linked to childhood cancers.

"Some studies suggest that

children whose mothers smoked during their pregnancy are not at an increased risk for developing cancer as a child," the researchers report in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

In contrast, there is accumulating evidence that maternal exposure to passive smoke, as well as a history of paternal cigarette smoke exposure in the absence of maternal cigarette smoking, is correlated with an increased risk of childhood can-

cer, especially leukaemias and lymphomas in children less than five years of age."

The research on pregnant women exposed to passive smoking is the first clear evidence of a biological link between tobacco and potentially malignant changes in children, the researchers said.

The study found mutations in the white blood cells of the babies but the scientists warned that there could be

other genetic transformations that they might have missed.

"Given our small sample size, there may well be other differences that we were unable to detect. However, the statistical significance of the differences we found are as valid as those from a much larger study, provided [our] sample is representative," they said.

Another study, published last August, on the effects of tobacco smoke on pregnant women

found significantly high levels of tobacco smoke particularly on the young, who suffer a greater risk from environmental toxins ... not only because of their small size but also because of their physiological immaturity."

No other environmental factor, whether to do with diet, lifestyle or pollution, has such a pronounced effect on the risk of developing cancer as tobacco smoke, Dr Sozzi said.

Blair targets bad teachers and doctors

TONY BLAIR will launch the next phase of his plan to modernise Britain today by warning that bad teachers and poor doctors will be rooted out to improve public services.

In his speech to the Labour conference in Blackpool, the Prime Minister will urge his party not to lose its nerve as the Government starts to confront "tough decisions" on the economy, welfare and the efficiency of the public sector.

He will place teachers and doctors in the front line of a Government move to tackle what ministers privately call "vested interests" in the public sector.

Mr Blair will announce that heads whose schools perform badly will be sacked, but those who turn round bad schools will get extra pay.

"There is no greater injustice to a child than a poor education," he will tell the conference. "There will be rewards for good teachers but no room for bad teachers."

He will reveal that doctors in the NHS will face new checks over their performance and more rigorous selection procedures. Poor doctors may be forced to retrain.

Ministers claim the doctors are a "law unto themselves" and have too much say over treatment, their pay and bonuses and disciplinary procedures. They believe the baby deaths scandal in Bristol will persuade the public to support radical change.

Another "vested interest" on the target list is the police, although Mr Blair may not reveal his hand today. Ministers are worried that efficiency levels of different forces vary widely and believe that chief constables have too much power.

Although Mr Blair will insist that the public sector "will be modernised according to our principles and values", one ally said last night: "There will be sacrifices, and there will be squeals of pain."

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

The speech marks an important change of gear by Mr Blair, who believes the Government is entering a critical mid-term phase after taking some of its easier decisions in its first 17 months in office.

"It's time to bite the bullet," one aide said.

Mr Blair will warn his party that the reforms will attract "opposition and controversy" but that "radical change never came without a struggle".

Admitting that his Government may become unpopular as a result, he will say it is better to be unpopular than wrong. "We need to show the same res-

JUST GOOD FRIENDS?

Brown and Blair make up, page 7
plus

Mandelson's spin under fire, page 6
Michael Brown, page 6
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olution changing the country as we did in changing the Labour Party."

Denying that his plans to reform welfare have run out of steam, Mr Blair will signal legislation in the parliamentary session starting in November to reform benefits for the sick and disabled, which took up £25bn of the £100bn social security budget.

The new law will tighten up the medical tests and qualification rules for invalidity benefit, which ministers claim is open to abuse.

But in an attempt to limit the controversy, the new regime will apply only to new

claims, so existing ones will not lose their benefits.

Mr Blair will announce a new package of measures to reduce crime, including a pledge to cut car crime by 30 per cent in five years.

Pledging his support for "zero tolerance" of crime, he will reveal that 25 to 30 towns and cities will run pilot schemes in "hotspot policing", modelled on New York.

It will involve blitzes by police to tackle pockets of high crime, and will mean more young people being taken to court rather than being let off with a caution.

The Prime Minister will risk the wrath of his party by re-stating his commitment to low taxes, saying that New Labour did not win last year's landslide by saying it would "tax people through the roof".

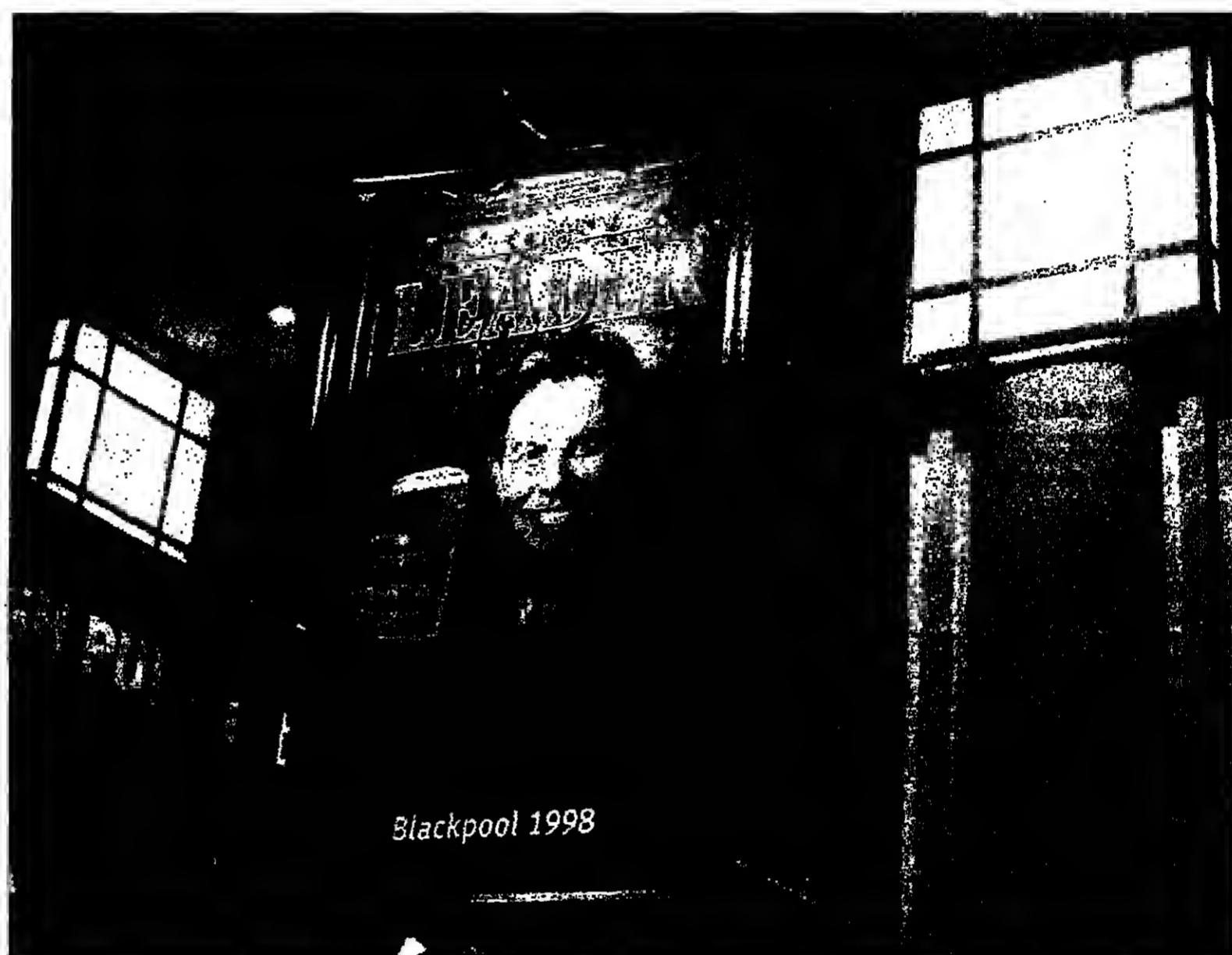
While he will say he understands the anxiety caused by world economic problems, he will rule out any U-turn and insist that Britain can weather the global storm.

There is no question, he will say, of changing the Bank of England's inflation target or its remit - a course demanded by the trade unions. He will also reject calls for action to bring down the value of sterling.

While adopting Margaret Thatcher's "there is no alternative" theme, Mr Blair will reassure his party that he does not share Thatcherite values. He will reject her cult of "cruel individualism" and speak of his strong belief in "community, partnership and fairness".

Mr Blair will endorse the tough message to the conference yesterday by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who insisted that the Government would not change course to court short-term popularity.

Mr Brown also sought to draw a line under recent tensions between him and Mr Blair. He effectively promised not to plot against Mr Blair in order to become Prime Minister.



Blackpool 1998

Licensees pressing for new drink laws use the image of modernising Tony Blair at their stand at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool Brian Harris

Greens set for power in Schroder coalition

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

GERMANY BRACED itself yesterday for the biggest political realignment in its post-war history, as Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats set about forming a government with the help of the Greens.

Negotiations leading to the first ever "Red-Green" coalition will begin on Friday, the two sides announced after their respective leaders emerged from their huddle. The process is likely to take several weeks.

Helmut Kohl remains Chancellor in the meantime, though with obvious reluctance, after leading his Christian Democrats to their worst result since 1949. The Christian Democrats

a 10-year period, while the Greens want them shut down immediately. The two parties combined would have a majority in the new parliament.

As the winners celebrated Sunday's landslide victory, the outgoing government continued to be rocked by resignations. After Mr Kohl's announcement that he would step down as party chairman, it was the turn of his Finance Minister, Theo Waigel. Mr Waigel announced he would quit as chairman of the Christian Social Union.

Greens go into battle, page 12
Leading article, Review, page 3

How to become a Freelance Writer

by NICK DAWES

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

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Leading article, Review, page 3

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Worldwide slump hits bankers' Christmas party

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Kensington, London, but were told by management yesterday that the party had been axed as part of an austerity drive.

Renting the museum's dinosaur hall costs about £7,000 at Christmas. Merrill will now lose its deposit on the booking, worth around half that.

The evening's costs would have

come to more than £20,000. Merrill said: "It's fair to say that we're reconsidering some of our entertainment plans, including the Natural History Museum. In the present environment it might give way to a wine bar or the Old Bull and Bush pub might be more appropriate."

It is not alone in planning to cut costs. With billions lost in Asia and Russia, most City in-

sitions are tightening their belts. Merrill's staff learnt of other restrictions yesterday.

No more limousines to Heathrow. Staff are now banned from hiring a car for lifts to the airport. No more Concorde to New York. Staff will have to travel economy class.

City sources suggest that BA will be hard hit, as Merrill Lynch executives have been

one of Concorde's mainstays in recent years. More slap-up meals with contacts at fancy restaurants without permission. Entertaining clients must be agreed with superiors first.

However, the biggest worry in the City is that the cost-cutting will extend to bonuses, which depend entirely on profits earned by the banks.

City job gloom, page 17

A special school has been temporarily closed after allegations of physical and emotional abuse

Hurricane Georges wreaks havoc as it hits the Mississippi coastline after a mass evacuation

The flotation of Formula One was back on the starting grid for the second time yesterday

After the Paolo Di Canio assault on Saturday - just how tough is it being a football referee?

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Hundreds of overweight children could soon be spending their summer holidays dieting and exercising at American-style health farms.

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Fire-fighters threaten strikes

Fire-service managers have been threatened with strikes over a plan for a reduction in compensation paid to the families of fire-fighters killed on duty.

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FOREIGN NEWS

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Middle East edges towards deal

Israel and Palestine edged back towards a peace deal yesterday, raising hopes that a comprehensive agreement may be only weeks away.

Page 15

Sour note for Pauline Hanson

Pauline Hanson, the populist Australian politician, has gone to court to try to get a song about her banned; the song's creator is one Pauline Pantomime. Page 14

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 17 - 22

Man Utd goes into world retail

Manchester United is planning to open 150 stores worldwide over the next three years in an attempt to cash in on its international supporter base.

Page 18

WH Smith fights US invaders

WH Smith is considering opening 20 to 25 superstores containing coffee shops and seating areas - to fight the invasion of American giants such as Borders.

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SPORTS NEWS

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Hakkinen takes a view on F1

Formula One championship favourite Mika Hakkinen expresses some surprising views about his sport and his fellow drivers.

Page 23

Disarray reigns again at QPR

Queens Park Rangers are in disarray again with the resignation of manager Ray Harford and doubts over the role of player/coach/film star Vinnie Jones. Page 30

TUESDAY REVIEW
20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION**Timothy Garton Ash**

'Gerhard Schröder fought a campaign of Blair-like discipline and razzmatazz. But to be a Blair in office, you need first to have had your Thatcher.' Page 5

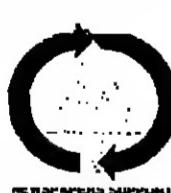
Anne McElroy

'A government that has made a virtue out of ditching one outdated ideology should think carefully before adopting another set of fetters, even if they appear to be made of ideological Lycra.'

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Cryptic crossword, section ooc, page 24



Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

Captain Kojo Tsikata

On 18 June 1992, we published an article about the forthcoming elections in Ghana. The article referred to the kidnap and murder of three Ghanaian High Court Judges in June 1982 and reported the recommendation of a Special Investigation Board, appointed by the Ghanaian Government and chaired by a former Chief Justice of Ghana, that 10 people, including Captain (retired) Tsikata, should be prosecuted in relation to the murders, as well as the Board's finding that Captain Tsikata had "masterminded" the plot. At the time, Captain Tsikata was head of security and foreign affairs in the Ghanaian government.

The article went on to state that "five people were prosecuted and executed, but not Captain Tsikata". Whilst we fairly and accurately reported the former Chief Justice's recommendations, it has been drawn to our attention that the Attorney General of Ghana explained in detail his reasons for concluding that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute Captain Tsikata. The sole witness against Captain Tsikata subsequently withdrew his accusation just before his execution for the murders. We did not intend to suggest that Captain Tsikata was in fact guilty of these terrible crimes and we regret if any reader understood that we did.

Captain Tsikata issued proceedings for defamation against *The Independent* on 26 March 1993. On the basis of the publication of this statement, Captain Tsikata has agreed to discontinue them.

School is closed in abuse inquiry

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

A SPECIAL school was closed temporarily yesterday as police and social services began an investigation of allegations of physical and emotional abuse.

Two teachers and a member of the support staff at Windlestone Hall School in Rushden, near Northampton, were suspended pending the investigation's outcome.

Complaints about the school, whose 101 pupils include many with severe behavioural problems, are thought to go back two years. In July this year, police and social services decided to review previous complaints made about members of the school's staff after a boy's arm was fractured.

Russell Lee, principal education and welfare officer for Northamptonshire County Council, which runs the school, said the unusual step of closing the school had been taken because police and social services felt this would help their inquiries.

All the pupils, who are aged between 10 and 16, are being interviewed by members of the joint police and social services unit and their parents have been told.

There are thought to have been about a dozen complaints against members of staff over the past two years.

Officials are investigating the possibility of teaching the children in their homes until the school, which has been operating for more than 20 years, reopens.

Don Cotter (left), Gina Murray (front) and Nichola McAuliffe rehearse one of the five winning entries at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane

Musicals make the West End hit list

BY LOUISE JURY

THEY HAVE starred in some of the biggest hits in the West End. But this week, Gary Wilmot, Nichola McAuliffe and Peter Polycarpou will take to the stage to perform unknown songs by largely unknown writers to help find the Stephen Sondheim of the future.

Five musicals have been shortlisted from 144 entries for the 14th annual Vivian Ellis prize, which was set up to encourage new writing.

Short extracts will be performed by a cast of professionals. And the works will be judged by a panel including Sir Tim Rice, Don Black, who wrote the lyrics for *Sunset Boulevard*, the choreographer Ariene Phillips and Joel Grey, one of the stars of *Chicago*.

The successful writer will hope to emulate the success of former prize-winner Charles Hart, the lyricist for *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Chris Grady, the prize's administrator, said: "There is no support and no training for people who want to write musicals. So the prize is absolutely vital."

Nearly every performer who was asked agreed to take part. Mr Grady said: "They're all looking for future roles. For Gary Wilmot, exciting though it is to be going to *Oliver!* as Fagan, it is even more exciting if he can help a writer create a new role for him."

Among the shortlisted lyricists/composers are Alex Lovelace, the youngest finalist at the age of 21, and Steve Nunnion, 32, a primary school teacher from Co Antrim.

There will be a public performance of the works on Thursday.



Nicola Kurtz

prosecution costs, denied neglecting her horses. She said the animals were not malnourished, adding that they were not in work and therefore the food she gave them was enough.

Vets had advised her to destroy at least one of the animals before the RSPCA inspection. But McFarland said the horse was needed as evidence in a civil dispute she was involved in with the Ministry of Defence. She said some of her horses had been harmed by low-flying jets buzzing over her farm and she was claiming compensation from the MOD.

Actress guilty of cruelty

BY BRIAN FARMER

A FORMER actress turned horse-breeder was yesterday convicted of 14 charges of causing unnecessary cruelty to animals. Olive McFarland, who acted with Sean Connery in the film *Frightened City* in 1961, was hanged from keeping horses for three years and given a one-month suspended prison sentence by a magistrate in Newmarket, Suffolk.

McFarland, who and lives at a farm in Cressing St Mary, Suffolk, denied each of the 14 allegations during a week-long hearing. The court heard RSPCA inspectors called at the farm in October and found

patients can only be detained under the Mental Health Act if they are deemed treatable.

"This is one of the worst cases of neglect I have had to deal with during my 11 years as an inspector," said RSPCA chief inspector Mark Thompson.

McFarland, who was also ordered to pay £10,000 towards

prosecution costs, denied neglecting her horses. She said the animals were not malnourished, adding that they were not in work and therefore the food she gave them was enough.

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As the Daily Mail, house journal of the middle classes, overtakes the Mirror for the first time, a social milestone has been passed. So who are the paper's readers? And where do they come from?

What is Middle England?

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

THE DAILY MAIL was selling well yesterday in Bentall's shopping centre in Kingston upon Thames. For the glass-domed four-storey emporium is a temple to Middle England, whose every mood the *Daily Mail* seems to reflect.

Few shoppers were surprised to learn that the paper has finally ousted the *Mirror* as Britain's second-best selling newspaper. The mirror seemed to read it. Most were happy to call themselves part of Middle England, that burgeoning class of ambitious, self-improving home-owners who have become wedded to capitalism and consumerism.

They used to be patronised as lower middle-class aspirants. Terry and June on television and the Gambols in newspaper cartoons belittled their attitudes. But with their importance reflected in American-style malls like this one, they have gained a less damning description, also derived from America - Middle England.

Marjorie Sharples, 56, and her daughter, Jane Howell, 29, are proud Middle Englanders. They had driven yesterday from Petersfield "for our shopping fix" at Bentall's, whose water fountains and background Mozart are so soothing, even if the criss-crossing white bridges joining shopping galleries remind one of prison gangways. They could stop for a cappuccino at Bella Vista, nip into Disneyworld with Mrs Howell's three-year-old son, Curtis, check out the designer wares for a family wedding and drop into Racing Green to view the winter collection.

"I came from a cotton town in Lancashire," said Mrs Sharples. "My parents were poor. Now we have our own wholesale stationery business.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

ADMIRE	EAT	WATCHES	WEARS	HOLIDAYS
MAIL MAN 	REVIEW 	CHANGING ROOMS 	MARKS & SPENCER 	IN FRANCE
MIRROR MAN 	FAST FOOD 	GLADIATORS 	HOT BRAND SPORTSWEAR 	IN SPAIN
SO WE'RE NOT POOR We're not poor. We've sneaked into Middle England. I voted Labour for the first time.	THEIR FOOD SHOPPING HABITS Their food shopping habits are typical: Sainsbury's or Tesco for the basics, Marks & Spencer for luxuries. The same goes for clothes. "I get my basics, knickers and so on, at Marks & Spencer," said Mrs Howell. "Then I'll go to Next, Principles and Bentall's."	MARKS & SPENCER Marks & Spencer would have been beyond the reach of their grandparents. But, as Peter York, the style guru, points out, Middle England "wants something better, and when something better turns up, they want to have it".	YOU CAN SENSE THIS ASPIRATION in the television programmes people watch. "They want to improve themselves not in an intellectual way, but with news that they can use," said Mr York, who runs FRU Ltd, specialising in market research.	THE DOMINANCE OF PROGRAMES such as <i>Groundforce</i> , <i>Changing Rooms</i> and <i>Ready, Steady, Cook</i> reflect the cultural hegemony of Middle England as surely as do sales of the <i>Daily Mail</i> . The presenters of these household favourites encapsulate this group's values: Alan Titchmarsh, constantly trying something new and yet simultaneously solid, dependable, provincial and decent.
UNQUOTE Until the last election she had voted Conservative. But, like a sizeable chunk of Middle England, she was successfully wooed by Tony Blair. "I	THEIR HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS would have been dreams for previous generations: France, Egypt, Switzerland, Germany. Likewise, their favourite restaurants - French and Italian - would have been beyond the reach of their grandparents.	IN SPAIN In Spain, you can't beat the Balearics. Where else can you get drunk as a skunk, red as a lobster and sick as a parrot, and English breakfasts to boot? At home, it's Butins - a shame they don't do duty free.	IN SPAIN In Spain, you can't beat the Balearics. Where else can you get drunk as a skunk, red as a lobster and sick as a parrot, and English breakfasts to boot? At home, it's Butins - a shame they don't do duty free.	IN SPAIN In Spain, you can't beat the Balearics. Where else can you get drunk as a skunk, red as a lobster and sick as a parrot, and English breakfasts to boot? At home, it's Butins - a shame they don't do duty free.

Why modern women no longer look in the Mirror

BY JOHN DAVISON

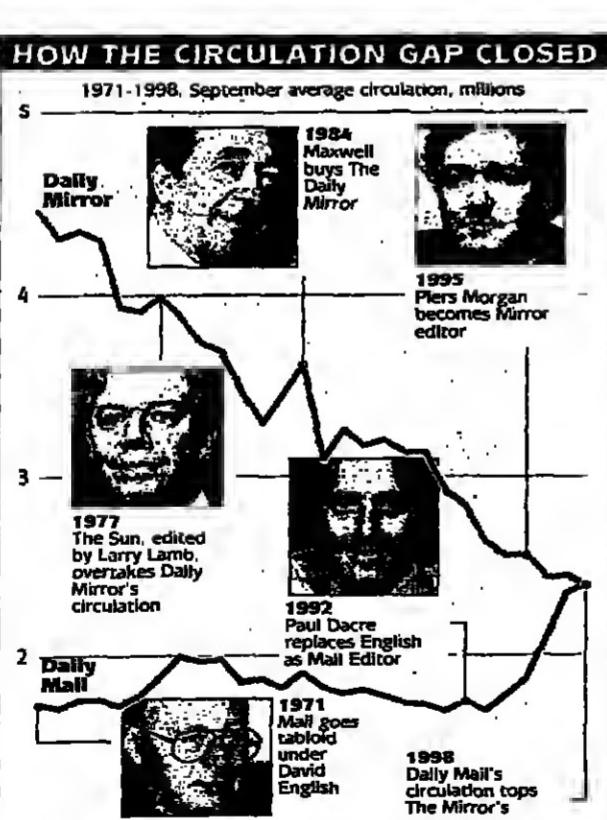
THE PROCESS has been going on for almost 30 years, but in the end it was decided on the issue of a "Lucky Wallet".

According to industry estimates sales of the *Daily Mail*, bible of the aspirational classes and creator of the concept of "Middle England", have overtaken those of the *The Mirror*, redolent as it is of flat caps and betting shops. The final push came from the *Mail's* latest promotion, called "Lucky Wallet", which is said to have cost £1m and boosted sales this month by up to 100,000 copies a day.

The decline in sales of *The Sun*, although recently arrested, only serves to confirm the trend. Very New Britain, but how did it happen?

The man normally accredited with this attitudinal revolution is the late Sir David English, who re-invented the daily as a "compact" tabloid in 1971 when its middle-market rival, *The Express*, was still coming out in broadsheet format. Sir David also led a trend to attract more women readers by launching the paper's highly successful Fe-Mail section, and his right-wing campaigning in the 1980s led to a knighthood from Margaret Thatcher.

In fact, when he stood down as editor in 1992 Sir David had



done very little to add to the paper's circulation. In 1971 it averaged 1.75m a day, and by the time he left it was 1.74m. What he did do was to improve the "quality" of the readership by

attracting more middle-class "ABC" people into the *Mail* fold, which made it more attractive to advertisers and so far more profitable.

He also kept his head, and

his readers, when all about were losing theirs - especially *The Mirror*. Over the same period its circulation plummeted from almost 4.5m to 2.8m, and in December 1977 was overtaken for the first time by the lusty Sun of Larry Lamb - page three and all. Much of this, say commentators, is attributable to initially ignoring *The Sun*, and also to the take-over of *The Mirror* by Robert Maxwell, an event from which its credibility never recovered.

Since the appointment of Paul Dacre to the editorship of the *Mail*, circulation has continually climbed - benefiting both from the demise of *Today* in 1995 and from the increasing sophistication of newspaper readers. Meanwhile *The Mirror* underwent a series of savage cuts to its editorial budget.

Piers Morgan took over at *The Mirror* in 1995 and is seen as having helped to stem the paper's slide - it is currently selling 2.38m and has a modestly rising circulation. But this has not been without controversy, most notably over pictures of the Princess of Wales exercising in a gym. He is now said to be trying to move the paper upmarket to match the rising aspirations of his former readers. Even *The Sun* has gone for a new-look page three.

Good morning New Britain.

GP was victim of art fraud

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

MYATT Southwark Crown Court was told that Dr Sherwin only learnt it was a fake when he tried to sell it at Christie's.

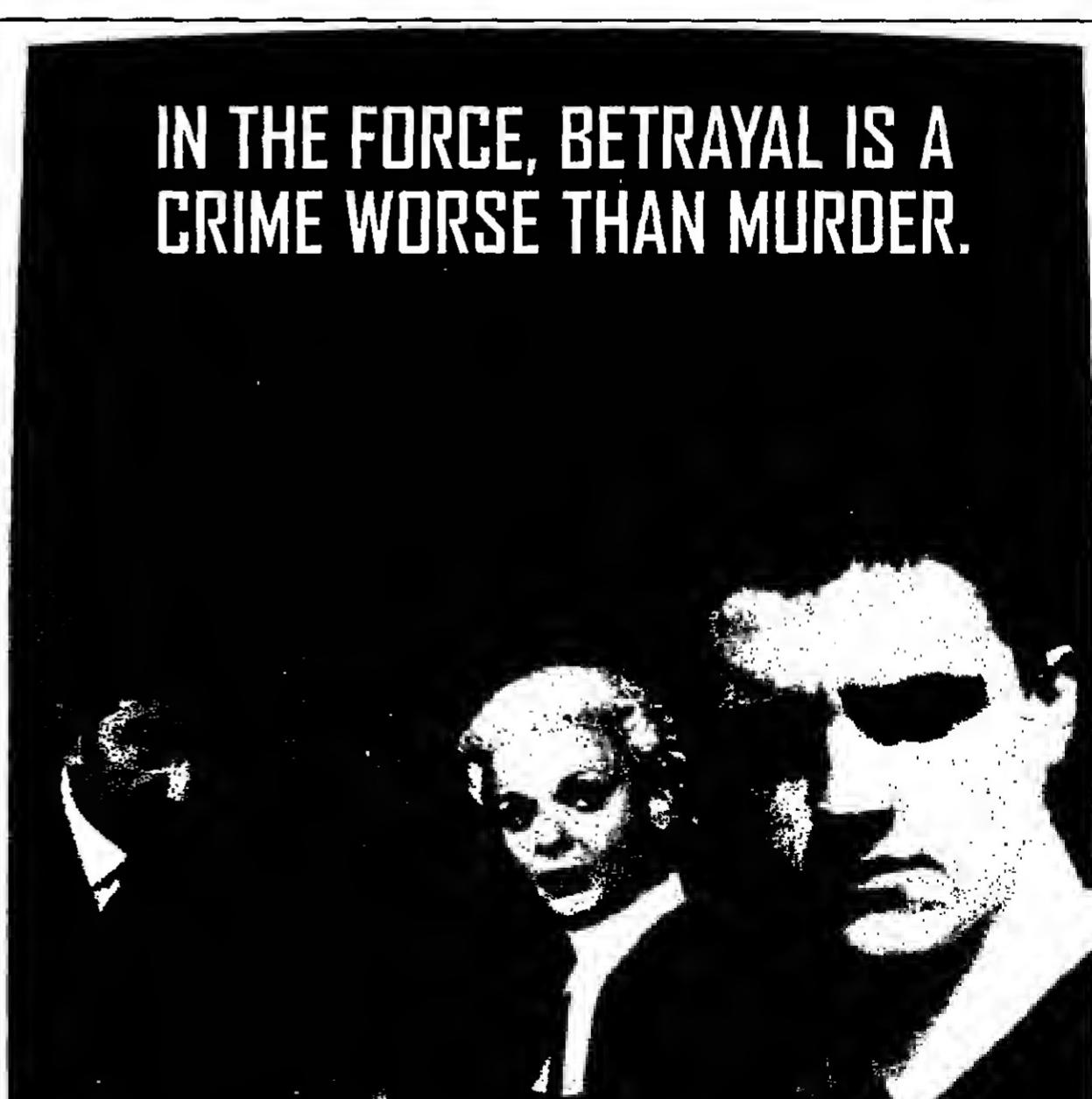
Dr Jeffrey Sherwin, a GP from Leeds, bought the painting from a reputable auctioneer believing it to be the work of the modern artist Ben Nicholson. In reality, the work - described variously as "Composition 51", "Cockerel" and "Isles of Scilly" - was a fake painted by John

"Unfortunately for Dr Sherwin, it was seized by police," said Mr Bevan. "Had he known what you now know, may have thought twice about spending £4,234 on it."

Mr Bevan said because the painting had a lengthy history or "provenance", Dr Sherwin expected it to fetch between £20,000-£12,000. In truth, he said, the provenance was created by Mr Drewe who had altered the archives at the Tate gallery and other galleries and museums.

Mr Drewe, 50, from Reigate, Surrey, is alleged to have masterminded a 10-year racket in which he created provenances for non-existent paintings before paying Mr Myatt to create them. Mr Drewe, along with Daniel Stables, 32, from Exeter, Devon, denies a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Drewe also faces a number of other charges, all of which he denies. No charges have been brought against Mr Myatt. The trial continues.



IN THE FORCE, BETRAYAL IS A CRIME WORSE THAN MURDER.

THE BILL

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Firemen threaten strike on death pay

FIRE SERVICE managers were threatened with nationwide strikes yesterday as they press ahead with plans for a 40 per cent reduction in compensation paid to the families of fire fighters killed on duty.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades' Union, said the proposal would be the "last straw" for his members, who have already taken sporadic industrial action over cuts to staffing. Mr Cameron is seeking an urgent meeting with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, in an attempt to reach a settlement.

The Local Government Management Board had told the union that it wants to reduce the compensation payment - which is also granted to firefighters who are permanently disabled - from five years' pay to three.

The move by management comes amid strong indications that local authorities will be unable to afford a wage increase due to firefighters without making fresh cuts.

The pay formula, which ties wages to that of skilled manual workers, is likely to yield an increase of around 5.8 per cent, but only 4.8 per cent has been allotted in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

Attempts to make cutbacks in Essex sparked a prolonged campaign of 24-hour stoppages.

Union members have also expressed dismay over Home Office attempts to lower the pension entitlements of new recruits, and a management drive to decentralise negotiations on hours of work and holidays.

Mr Cameron said management proposals on compensation amounted to a "significant alteration" to firefighters' conditions of service. "This would

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

have serious financial consequences for the widows and orphans of my members who are killed on duty. Management is trying to undermine a whole range of benefits. This amounts to a time-bomb, and our members will be saying 'enough is enough' if they go ahead with plans to reduce compensation. There's no doubt there will be an industrial reaction from my members."

Mr Cameron will meet members of his union on 8 October to assess their views.

Charles Nolder, of the management board, pointed out that the families of firefighters who died on duty received a lump sum worth seven years' pay - five years' worth of compensation and a further two years under the pension scheme. He said management wanted to bring the entitlements in line with those received by police officers.

The board decided to lower the compensation pay-outs after it was discovered that more was being paid than was dictated by Parliament. An order would have to be laid before Parliament to legitimise the scheme, and management decided to take the opportunity to alter it.

He acknowledged that the finances of the service had been "squeezed", but argued that firefighters enjoyed one of the most generous pay and conditions packages in the public service. Mr Nolder said that the Grey Book, which dictated conditions of service, was between 30 and 40 years old and needed to be updated. He said that negotiations in the service were the most centralised in the state sector and there was a need for more local flexibility.



PC Emlyn Welsh (left), former PC Paul Giles and Sgt Peter Bleakley (right) outside the High Court after yesterday's settlement. John Voos

Policemen win pay-out over TV libel

THREE POLICEMEN who were accused in a television programme of fabricating evidence against a prisoner charged with the brutal killing of his cell-mate left court yesterday with their reputations restored after a libel settlement believed to total around £2m.

Granada Television apologised and agreed to pay "substantial" damages - thought to be £100,000 to each officer - plus

BY CATHY GORDON
AND MIKE TAYLOR

their estimated £1.2m legal costs, over allegations in a *World in Action* programme broadcast in April 1992. It is possibly the biggest settlement by a television company.

The High Court in London heard that Sgt Peter Bleakley and PC Emlyn Welsh, and former PC Paul Giles were caused

"very great distress" and damage to their reputations by what they saw as a suggestion that they were involved in a cover-up to hide the fact that Patrick Quinn - who was beaten to death at Hammersmith police station, west London, on Christmas Eve 1990 - was killed by a police officer.

The programme said the officers perjured themselves at the trial of Mr Quinn's cell-mate,

Malcolm Kennedy, leading to his murder conviction. Kennedy's conviction was quashed on appeal, but at a retrial was convicted of manslaughter.

Granada Television said it accepted "without reservation that the officers did not lie or commit perjury and were in no way involved in any fabrication of evidence or in misleading the court at any stage".

■ In our story yesterday, we

wrongly suggested that the *World in Action* programme used evidence from a Police Complaints Authority inquiry. In fact the inquiry, which reported after the programme was shown, found no evidence to suggest that any officer, or anyone other than Mr Kennedy, was responsible for killing Mr Quinn. We should also point out that Mr Giles did not seek more in damages than his colleagues.

Anti-flu drug on market by 1999

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

AN ANTI-FLU drug that can knock out the influenza virus and stop the symptoms of fever and headache could be on the market next winter.

The drug, called zanamivir, has been tested on more than 2,000 patients in Europe and the United States. Latest results, presented at a conference in San Diego, show it can cut the length of the illness by 2.5 days and reduces the severity of symptoms including cough, temperature and aches and pains.

GlaxoWellcome, which makes the drug, has applied for a licence in Europe and Canada following completion of the Phase III trials. Professor Chris Silagy, of Flinders Medical Centre in South Australia, one of the triallists, said: "Zanamivir ... stops influenza dead in its tracks."

If it proves acceptable to doctors and patients, the potential market for the drug could be worth billions. However, it is only effective against genuine flu, and not against coughs, colds or other flu-like illnesses.

Once licensed, it is likely to be made available on prescription only after the GP has conducted a test to confirm the presence of flu. This means that patients will have to attend their local surgery for the test immediately symptoms appear. Any delay will reduce its efficacy.

Patients will take the drug by inhaling it directly into their lungs, the same route that the flu virus takes when passing from person to person. A rival drug, made by Hoffman La Roche, which is at a similar stage of development, will be offered in pill form.

The drugs are the first of a new class called neuraminidase inhibitors, which do not stop infection but prevent the virus spreading within the body. The drugs work by blocking the action of neuraminidase, an enzyme "spike" on the surface of the flu virus which enables it to migrate through mucus in the lungs and spread among cells. Timing is critical. If given too late, the drugs have little effect.

Motherhood is all in the father's genes

MOTHERHOOD IS all in the genes, according to scientists who found that just one gene, inherited from the father, can make the difference between good and bad mothering.

Though the research only applies to mice, the same gene also exists in humans. Yesterday Azim Surani, a member of the team that discovered it, said: "It's possible that in hu-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

mans mutations in this gene could affect maternal behaviour." But he added that in humans the effects, which might manifest themselves as post-natal depression, could be eased by our social ability to talk to and support each other.

The research, at the Well-

come Institute in Cambridge and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, found that mice with mutated copies of the gene, known as "Mest", neglected their young after birth, failed to clean them, were less good as nest-builders and were slow to fetch their young back to the nest if they strayed.

The effect was that most of the mice born to Mest-deficient

mothers died, which would mean that in evolutionary terms the gene is important for survival. That means it is "highly conserved", so that mutations are unlikely to be able to propagate in the species because they limit the chances of the young surviving.

The importance of mothering and genes which program it, would also explain why both

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Anti-flu
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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 29 September 1998

HOME NEWS/5

Obesity: US firm plans to open £3,000-a-week 'fat camps' for youngsters as star who once weighed 16st sheds 20lb

Health farms planned for fat children

HUNDREDS OF overweight children could soon be spending their summer holidays dieting and exercising at American-style health farms.

For nine weeks the children, some as young as seven, will be subjected to an intense exercise regime including aerobics, cycling and swimming and will be restricted to a diet of 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day – most children should eat between 1,750 and 2,000 daily. The course will cost £3,000.

One California-based camp is planning to open in Britain next year as soon as it has found a suitable site. Nancy Lenhart, of the La Jolla weight-loss camp, said the decision followed a significant rise in the number of British parents contacting the so-called fat camps in the US.

"We think a camp like ours will work well. Five years ago it was only Americans but the number of British children coming here to lose weight has been increasing year on year," she said.

Although there are no precise figures on the number of obese British children, a study

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

by Exeter University of 700 children between the ages of 11 and 16 showed that more than 13 per cent of the boys and 9 per cent of the girls were overweight. In America twice as many children – one in five – are officially classed as obese.

Paul Gateley, a lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University who is doing a PhD on weight loss in children, said most of the American camps were simply run to make money and did not take a scientific approach to helping overweight children.

Mr Gateley, who worked in a children's health farm in Massachusetts, said he was appalled.

"When I first went there all the children were on a 1,000-calorie-a-day diet, regardless of whether they were seven or 17 and irrespective of how much they weighed," he said.

"They were made to do a form of circuit training which they did not enjoy and which didn't encourage them to stay active once they got home."

Dee Dawson, the medical director of Rhodes Farm, a London clinic for eating disorders,

said that most overweight children had a psychological problem and nine weeks at a fat camp would not solve it.

"From what I understand, these camps do not address the psychological problems and children who are overweight need therapy," she said. "It is rare for children to over-eat unless they have a problem and they need to work it out with their families and have family therapy to try and sort it out."

"But very often children just don't need to diet. They are growing extremely fast and their height and weight will usually balance out."

Barbara Livingstone, a nutritionist and researcher in childhood obesity at the University of Ulster, said she was concerned at how the camps would be run.

"I would be worried that children who were only mildly overweight were being sent there. It is dangerous to put children on a diet without the advice of a qualified dietician and also telling them they are overweight and sending them away could also create problems with a child's self-esteem."



Oprah Winfrey lost 20lb in weight to appear 'Vogue' (above). In the past the talk-show queen has shed up to 5st 2lb by dieting



Oprah lends her weight to thin lobby

BIG GIRLS don't cry. But newly trim ones do, especially when their reward for losing 20lb is their photograph on the cover of the fashion bible American Vogue.

Oprah Winfrey burst into tears when she saw the new pictures of herself. Most women would not find that surprising. For not only has she become the first talk-show host to grace the cover in the magazine's 110-year history, it is also a fair bet to say she is the only *Vogue* cover star who has ever seen her weight climb as high as 16st 13lb.

Not that she weighs anything like that amount now. Still, Anna Wintour, the editor of *American Vogue*, asked her to lose nearly two stones for the shoot. "I was totally chicken. I did not approach her directly. I went through her agent," the editor later admitted.

The result, photographed by Steven Meisel, was a svelte and glamorous Ms Winfrey, dressed in a black Ralph Lauren dress and looking years younger. It is a far cry from when the 44-year-old weighed the same as Mike Tyson.

"This is a part of myself I didn't know existed. I am telling you I wept when I saw every one of the Polaroids," said Ms Winfrey, whose high profile coincides with the release of her new film, *Beloved*, from the book by Toni Morrison.

A Vogue spokesman said yesterday that it was a "natural step" for Oprah to be in *Vogue*, but that had to have the "Vogue look" because it was a "successful aspirational magazine" and so the weight loss was necessary.

Oprah is perhaps the world's most famous dieter and has frequently shared her battle of the bulge with her audiences, at one point wheeling a barrow-load of fat on to the stage to show how much she had lost.

But the words Yo-Yo Diet Syndrome could have been invented for the talk-show queen.

BY GLENDA COOPER

In 1990 she lost 67lb, but by 1992 was more than 16 stone again. In 1994 she once again lost a stunning amount – 72lb (or 5st 2lb) – with the help of a punishing exercise regime and a personal chef, Rosie Daley, who made very low fat meals.

In *The Kitchen with Rosie: Oprah's Favourite Recipes* became one of the fastest-selling books in American publishing history.

However the weight piled back on again – particularly when she was involved in a battle earlier this year with Texan beef farmers, who sued her unsuccessfully for slander. (Such is her power that a comment on Cretzfeldt-Jakob disease, "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger," had caused prices on the cattle futures market to plummet.)

Oprah, who had approached *Vogue* herself about the possibility of a cover, enjoyed being photographed so much that she arranged for four viewers to have the same experience. She took them behind the scenes and to a *Vogue* party.

Ms Wintour said: "I don't think you see too many really hot pictures of Oprah and I think she's a really hot sexy woman. You work with so many people who get so jaded, but she was really overwhelmed. It really meant something to her."

Oprah's partner, Stedman Graham, went even further. "It's unbelievable!" he said on seeing the shots. "It's like the culmination of all she's worked for. From being overweight to this point is one of the greatest victories a person can have."

Zoe Souter, booking editor for *British Vogue*, said that putting Oprah on the cover had caught the zeitgeist. "We've used celebrities before, and it is a way that the trends are going. Would we use someone like Oprah Winfrey? I don't see why not."

Obesity epidemic hits US

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

JUNK FOOD, poor access to fresh meat, fruit and vegetables and inadequate education about what it takes to keep a child healthy: these are some of the factors that have led to an epidemic of obesity across the United States, and in children in particular.

According to one estimate, up to one American child in every five is overweight. The statistics vary according to region and socio-economic group.

Relatively few children living in affluent communities on the

east and west coasts, where a wide variety of food is available and there is greater health consciousness, suffer from the problem, while it is more prevalent in the Midwest and South.

In recent years, summer camps where children can lose weight have become increasingly popular. One well-known location, Camp Shanty in the Catskill Mountains of upper New York State, offers a three-

week course for just over £1,200, or a nine-week course for just under £2,000.

The camp claims to teach children "how to eat healthily" and lose 10-15 pounds over the training programme.

These courses are targeted at richer children who statistically tend to suffer from the opposite syndrome. Medical studies have shown that excessive concern about healthy eating has in fact caused malnutrition in some better-off families.

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Mandelson spin under attack

INDUSTRY

BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND
SARAH SCHAEFER

PETER MANDELSON was comprehensively upstaged yesterday by the leader of the Post Office workers' union who derided the destructive briefing of "faceless and spineless backroom boys in Whitehall".

Referring to newspaper reports hinting at the privatisation of the Post Office, Derek Hodgson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union, told the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that his members were "sick and tired of spin and leaks".

Unlike Mr Mandelson's speech, which was greeted with polite applause, the union leader's contribution was punctuated by cheers and concluded in a standing ovation.

An address by Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers Union, called on the minister not to water down proposals on employment rights and also drew an enthusiastic reception.

Mr Morris later demanded that the "fairness at work" White Paper be implemented in its entirety, including the abolition of the limit on compensation for unfair dismissal.

The debate was a clear victory for "Old Labour" over "New Labour". Mr Hodgson's speech received the most prolonged applause.

The Secretary of State sat stony-faced as Mr Hodgson tore into the anonymous "spinners" of Whitehall.

Mr Hodgson's anger had been prompted by two articles, one of which forecast that Post Office employees would receive £2,000 worth of free shares if the organisation was



Peter Mandelson at the conference yesterday where CWU leader Derek Hodgson attacked the 'backroom boys of Whitehall' Ian Waldie

partially privatised and another which said that senior managers were secretly plotting to sell off 40 per cent of the equity.

The union leader reminded Mr Mandelson that he had promised the TUC conference earlier this month there would be no more spinning. Well Peter, I suggest you tell some

of your colleagues to follow your example if you truly mean it."

The story suggesting there would be free shares for postal workers was "rubbish", but even if it were true postal workers would not be briefed. And he pointed out that the so-called plot to sell off the corporation was based on a

leaked letter. "Let me say to this conference I and the Post Office workers are sick and tired of spin and leaks and being used as political footballs by faceless, spineless backroom boys in Whitehall. It's got to stop and this conference should clearly say that."

Referring to a call for mutu-

al trust in the movement by Tony Blair yesterday, he said: "I say this to the Prime Minister - trust must work both ways - you can trust the CWU, but you must sort out your own ministerial departments who are promoting mistrust."

Mr Mandelson's address lacked any detailed commitments, but sought to make his mark as the friend of Britain's entrepreneurs.

100

per cent state ownership. "It is therefore a question of the integrity of the Government being on the line. If they don't keep promises how can they expect others to do so?"

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Labour is
eping
MICHAEL
BROWN

LABOUR CONFERENCE

'Only loyal MPs chosen to speak'

LABOUR LEADERS faced new allegations of "rigging" their annual conference last night after an internal document leaked to *The Independent*, revealed how they tried to ensure that loyal delegates were chosen to speak in debates.

The report disclosed that Labour's Millbank headquarters in London asked its regional offices to draw up a list of "reliable" speakers who

DELEGATES ROW

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

would support the Government and allow officials to draft their speeches.

Left-wingers seized on the report as further evidence of the "control freak tendency". But they claimed the attempt had backfired and that delegates had shown they were not afraid to criticise the Government.

The document described "three basic categories" of speaker. The first was "an extra special one or two for every debate ... the one who will get on TV who we should work with on speech in advance of conference. Speech should be good for TV but also tackle arguments against our position strongly".

The second group was described as "normal - people with stories to tell, not fantas-

tic but time-filters". The third was "loyal people with initiative. People ready to get up and speak without needing to be prompted and without us needing to write their speech for them. Need to be strong speakers who can persuade people and reliable".

Training sessions were held in each region in the run-up to the Blackpool conference. In some areas, delegates were asked to fill in a questionnaire

asking whether they had "a story to tell" and whether there were "local examples (school buildings, NHS spending, smaller classes, New Deal etc) to show Labour's achievements".

Labour also faced embarrassment over the revelation that a list of the 188 delegates from the London region showed that only 14 of them were considered suitable to speak in Blackpool. Their

names were marked with a "Yes" or "No", with unreliable delegates described variously as "froth", "naïve", "argumentative" or a "Ken Livingstone supporter" while a loyal person was dubbed a "soofie". Others were described as "mostly sensible - black" and "be nice to - politically sound".

Labour confirmed the list was genuine but said disciplinary action had been taken

against the party official who had written on it. A Labour spokesman said: "The party disapproves of any comments of a personal or political nature being used in connection with these lists. This was a one-off incident which the party has investigated and is satisfied will not happen again."

Ken Livingstone, the Labour MP for Brent East, said: "We're supposed to be a political party, not a dating agency." He

warned the leadership that the attempts to control the conference would "explode in its face".

Dennis Skinner, the MP for Bolsover, said the document was a matter of concern but that the attempt to fix the conference had already failed.

"The mood is very encouraging. Speakers are not on message, which is a healthy development. The strategy is not working," he said.

Blair spared divisive PR vote

ELECTORAL REFORM

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to be spared an embarrassing conference vote on electoral reform after a behind-the-scenes deal between anti-PR campaigners and party managers.

The debate on proportional representation, likely to be the most explosive of the week, will go ahead on Thursday on the wishes of most activists.

However, it has emerged that leading PR opponents have decided a vote could prove too damaging to the leadership and will instead remit their emergency motions after the debate. The need to avoid a conference decision on the issue was borne out yesterday when the depth of division among government ministers was laid bare in fringe meetings and media interviews.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and Mr Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave strong backing to PR and claimed a referendum should be held before the next election.

Yet earlier in the day Cabinet "enforcer" Jack Cunningham denied there was any Government commitment to hold a poll on PR this Parliament.

Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett and Defence minister, John Spellar, went even further and launched formally the First Past the Post group of Labour MPs with vitriolic attacks on pro-reform campaigners and the Liberal Democrats.

The move to avoid a damaging vote on PR became clear last night when anti-reform campaigners admitted they were negotiating a compromise with the National Executive Committee to remit the motion.

A special debate on reform will now be held on Thursday after the subject came second only to transport policy in the ballot of delegates.

Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough and chairman of the First Past the Post group, said that he wanted debate but did not want to damage the Prime Minister further following the Left's victory in the NEC vote.

Mr Cook earlier told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*: "The referendum should be some time between now and the next election."



Gordon Brown, the Chancellor (right), with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the conference yesterday Brian Harris

Kiss-and-make-up routine puts an end to the Brown-Blair rift

LEADERSHIP TUSSE

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE SMOULDERING feud between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair over the leadership was put to rest yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a public declaration that he is not after the Prime Minister's job.

In his speech, Mr Brown rejected calls by John Edmonds, the GMB leader, and Rodney Bickerstaffe, the Unison leader, for public-sector workers to be awarded inflation-busting pay rises, and said there was no alternative to his economic policies.

But the Chancellor's friends said the key message to Mr Blair in Mr Brown's conference speech was a more personal one - as long as Tony Blair is Prime Minister, I am happy as Chancellor. I'm not

know what he's up to," said one Blair aide.

It was sealed in a carefully choreographed photo-opportunity on the conference platform between Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

Mr Blair went across to his Chancellor and patted Mr Brown on the back after the Chancellor poured praise on Mr Blair for his long-term vision for the party, and spoke of their closeness since sharing a small office when they entered Parliament 15 years ago.

The Chancellor praised Mr Blair for rewriting Clause Four of the party constitution to replace state ownership with a commitment to ensuring wealth, power and opportunity were in the hands of the many,

not the few. Mr Brown declared: "These goals are what I know. I am here to play a part in achieving them."

"These are my political ambitions, not the ambitions of office, but in the office I hold, to help fulfil our shared ambitions for our country."

Ministerial colleagues said last night that Mr Brown was "pained" by the reshuffle in July when Mr Blair moved Mr Brown's ally, Nick Brown, from the Chief Whip's office to the relative obscurity of the Agriculture Ministry.

He stopped Mr Blair from sacking his Treasury minister, Geoffrey Robinson, but he was upset by the reports that Mr Blair had used the reshuffle to show the Chancellor who was the boss.

"It was hard for Gordon to accept that he was the number two, after being the more senior partner for years. But Gordon has accepted that."

One minister said: "He now realises he has got a big international job to do, with the IMF and the World Bank and G7, and that is what he is now doing."

It came to a head when reports of their bitter feud resurfaced last week.

There are likely to be more splits over policy between Number Ten and Eleven Downing Street, but Mr Brown may be ready to accept a limited move towards electoral reform. His big challenge will be in convincing Mr Blair to enter the single European currency.

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

GOOD DAY

- Chancellor Gordon Brown, putting an end to speculation about a rift between him and Tony Blair during his speech on the economy.

BAD DAY

- Gloomy conference start for Peter Mandelson after he was given a verbal beating by union leaders.

REBEL OF THE DAY

- Union leader Derek Hodgson gained a record 45-second standing ovation when telling Peter Mandelson he was "sick and tired of leaks and spin".

SOUNDBITE OF THE DAY

- Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, attacking Chancellor Gordon Brown for freezing nurses' wages: "Not jam yesterday, not jam tomorrow, but a little bit of jam today for those who will look after you tomorrow."

BEST FRINGE MEETING

- The Independent's "What's the Big Idea", of course, with Home Office minister Alan Michael and Labour left-winger Ken Livingstone debating the Third Way.

BEST PARTY

- Scottish dancing and kilts at the Scot's Night in the Stakis Hotel.

CLAPOMETER

- Derek Hodgson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union came top with 150 dB, his standing ovation lasting 45 seconds.
- Chancellor Gordon Brown came second with 120 dB, and a standing ovation of 45 seconds.
- Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson managed 85dB, with a polite 30 seconds' applause.
- Culture Secretary Chris Smith had 20 seconds' applause and 85dB.
- Social Security Secretary Alistair Darling hit rock bottom with a mere five-seconds-long applause with 100dB.



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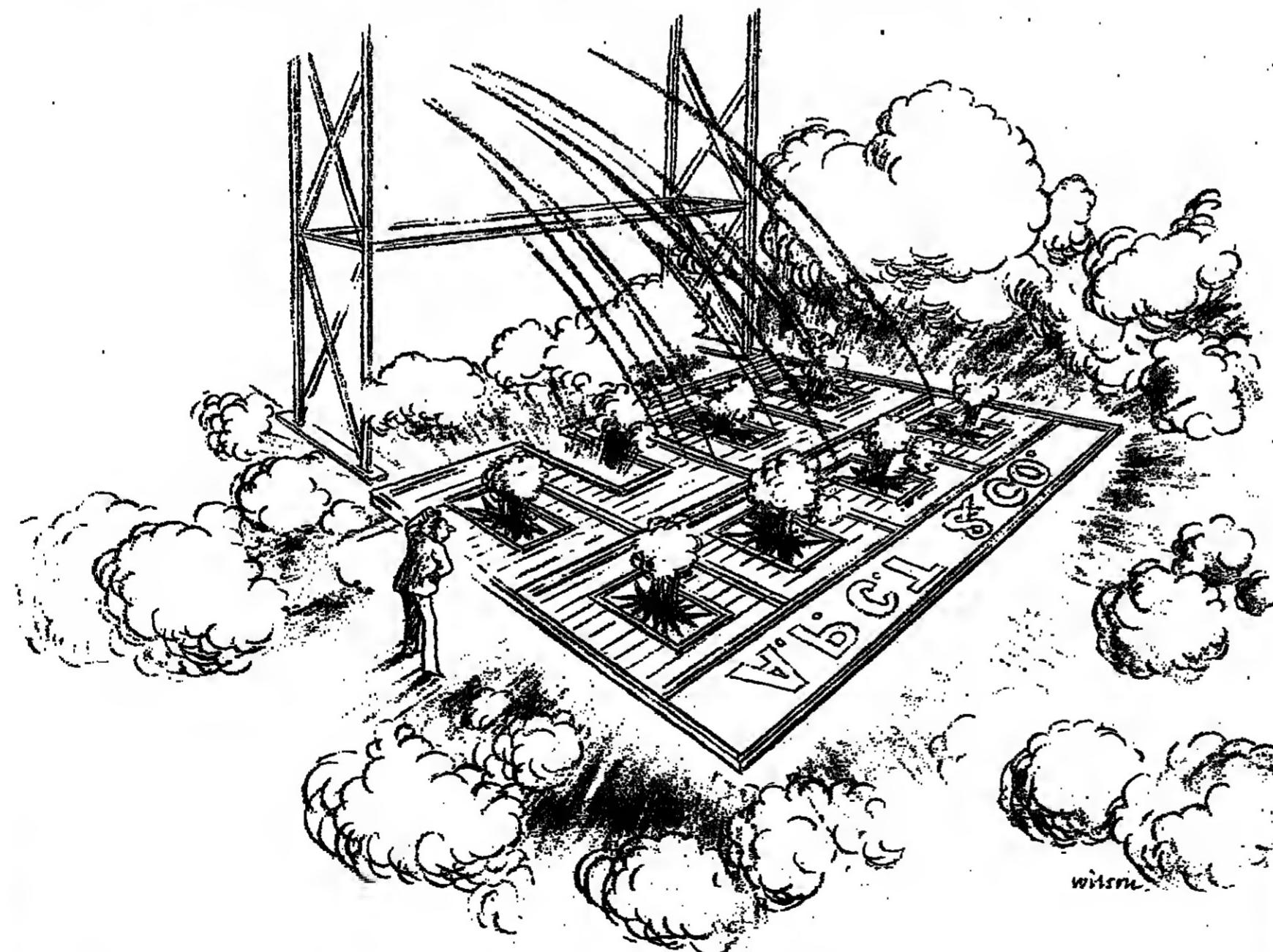
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Participants on Gloucester's drug rehabilitation scheme receiving acupuncture at the start of the daily group therapy session David Rose

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Drug users given chance to avoid jail

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT will this week give courts a controversial alternative to sending drug-using persistent offenders back to prison.

New Drug Treatment and Testing Orders are being launched in three pilot areas, offering addicts the chance of a strict detoxification and rehabilitation programme instead of being sent back to the overcrowded and drug-infested prison system.

The programme, which is due to be introduced nationally in 18 months, will be piloted from this week in Gloucestershire, Croydon and Liverpool.

In Gloucester, Steve Gyde's 23-year career of car-thieving,

court to be sentenced for their original offence.

The addicts start the course with a methadone-based detoxification course, lasting for up to 12 weeks. They are drug-tested three times a week throughout the six-month programme.

Gill McKenzie, head of Gloucestershire Probation Service, said: "There is no hiding place for them and clearly this is not a soft option. It is a massive leap forward in the treatment of drug abusers."

The course is based on a daily group therapy session which begins with Eden Sutcliffe, a community psychiatric nurse, sticking acupuncture needles into the ears of each addict.

Addicts accepted on to the scheme must pass an assessment interview, often lasting several hours, at which they must demonstrate a genuine desire to turn their lives around.

Dave Conway, a probation officer, said: "If they are willing to commit themselves 100 per cent then we will be 100 per cent behind them. If they are not, then they are thrown off the programme, because they are taking a place which could be given to someone else."

If an addict fails to appear for three group therapy sessions they are automatically sent back to court.

The programme has the enthusiastic support of local magistrates and police, who hope it might break the cycle of processing the same offenders through the courts and prisons.

After the launch of the pilot project this week, the Gloucestershire scheme will expand to treat 120 addicts a year, supported by an annual government grant of £300,000. If the pilot schemes are successful they will be extended to the rest of the country in 2000.

Police crack down on 999 call abuse

BY JEANETTE PEARSON

CALLERS WHO repeatedly abuse the 999 emergency service could risk having their telephone cut off, a police force warned yesterday.

Kent County Constabulary has announced a new phase in its drive to reduce unnecessary 999 calls. At the start of the campaign a year ago, police noted that of the more than 170,000 emergency calls received in 1996, 73 per cent had nothing to do with emergencies.

Despite a reduction of nearly 20,000 emergency calls last year, Kent police are not satisfied. Superintendent Robert Chidley said: "We have tried exhortation, friendly persuasion and radio and newspaper adverts. With so much at stake, we are working with BT to examine sanctions to con-

vince those who abuse the system to stop."

He added: "The 999 emergency service is a lifeline. Every call which abuses the emergency service endangers that lifeline."

Abuses have included:

■ "Did anyone pick up a £20 note yesterday and hand it to you?"

■ "I'm in Margate by the train station and I think my last train's gone, do you know if there is another train coming?"

■ "I'm a bit lost. I'm on the M20, I'm trying to get back to junction two on the M25, I'm just heading up the M20, I thought if I come off at junction three then I could turn round and go around the roundabout?"

IN BRIEF

Hunt for disabled British man missing on trip to Majorca

A SEARCH was under way yesterday for a 42-year-old man with learning disabilities who disappeared in Majorca during a trip organised by a residential home. Posters of Barry Denne have been placed around the town of Magaluf asking for help in tracing him after he disappeared on 14 September. Mr Denne was on holiday with care workers from a private care home in Kent.

Pensioner's body stuffed in bin

A PENSIONER was strangled or smothered and her body put in a wheelie-bin and dumped in a canal near Oldham, Greater Manchester. Last night detectives were questioning two girls aged 14 and 15 over the murder of Lily Lillie, 71, who was terrorised by youngsters for years.

Rude awakening for party-goer

A PARTY-GOER who spent the night in a make-shift shelter under a car at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, escaped serious injury yesterday when the car driver drove over him. The 22-year-old suffered only a grazed arm and bruises to his left leg when the car flattened his home-made tent.

Blacksmith banned from shoeing

A BLACKSMITH has been told he cannot shoe any more horses after being found guilty of unprofessional behaviour by the Farriers Registration Council. Stephen Bradshaw of Fleet, Lincolnshire, employed someone to shoe horses but did not fulfil his promise to make them an apprentice.

Rare starling sighted at Durness

HUNDREDS OF bird-watchers descended on Durness, on the remote northern tip of Britain, following the sighting of a lost daurian starling – a bird that should have been heading for the jungles of South-East Asia at this time of year. It is only the third sighting of the bird in Europe.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 29 September 1998

Officers are racist admits Condon

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

SIR PAUL CONDON, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, will admit that a number of his officers are intentionally racist when he appears before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry later this week.

He will also accept that other officers, who are not racially motivated, are perceived to be racist by members of the public. He will deny, however, that the force suffers from institutional racism.

Sir Paul will also announce a new training programme to combat racism in the force when he reads from a previously submitted report.

In the 10-page report submitted in July, he says: "We recognise that, in the eyes of individuals and communities in London, police action may be perceived and experienced as racist, regardless of the intent behind the actions."

"On some occasions the racist behaviour may be intentional on the part of the police officers. On other occasions, even though the racism may be unintentional, it is experienced as racism by the member of the public. Both forms of racism are wrong and must be prevented."

His admission is clearest yet of the problem of racism within Britain's largest police force. He has previously apologised to Stephen Lawrence's parents for the failure of his officers to investigate their son's murder properly, but denied that racism was a factor.

The report focuses on three main themes: the investigation of racially motivated crime, the prevention of such crime and the development of a non-

racist police force. Sir Paul will outline plans to improve investigation of racially motivated crime.

"Through openness and partnership we must demonstrate to the people of London the sincerity of our ambition to build an anti-racist police service," he states in the report.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said yesterday: "Sir Paul does not accept that the force is institutionally racist. He accepts, though, that improvements can be made."

"One example is the assumption an officer might make about a person's body language. The officer might think the body language suggests a person is acting suspiciously when in reality the body language may be cultural."

Sir Paul's appearance before the inquiry in London comes a week after its chairman, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, said he felt that racism was endemic within the police service.

There have been many demands for Sir Paul to appear before the inquiry, currently hearing from groups not linked directly to the murder of Stephen Lawrence by a white gang in 1993. Some, however, will see it as another rearguard action to defend not only his own position but the sorely-damaged reputation of the Met.

Assistant Commissioner Denis O'Connor and Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, director of the Racial and Violent Crime Taskforce, will also appear on Thursday.



The American designer Betsey Johnson's colourful girlie style at her debut show for London Fashion Week



Peter Macdiarmid

Madcap Betsey makes acrobatic debut

BY MELANIE RICKET

SPORTSWEAR MAY have been America's key contribution to fashion in the past 30 years, but there has been one designer who has consistently bucked all trends and done her own thing.

That designer is 56-year-old Betsey Johnson, and yesterday she brought her madcap, OTT, colourful and very girly style to her debut London Fashion Week show, with a collection that Madonna circa 1984 would have loved.

Supermodel Esther "the Iips" Canadas camped it up along the catwalk in a frilly bra covered in ruffles; a mini-skirt with a figure of a woman on it; and a matching sequin push-up bra.

Cinemate Erin O'Conor was barely recognisable beneath a long black wig and porcelain doll make-up as she stalked the runway in a skin-

tight red dress covered with prints of the Black Widow spider. Understated it was not. Think *Comic Dancing* meets South American naughty party girl on the beach and the idea comes across perfectly.

Johnson's "Cholla" collection for spring/summer 1999 reflected her joie de vivre, which if it hadn't come across in the exuberant clothes, was most apparent at the end of the show when she burst from

behind the scenes to deliver an athletically executed cartwheel. It has been said in New York that if Betsey didn't perform her seasonal acrobatics it would be like the Statue of Liberty disappearing overnight.

Johnson was the darling of downtown New York and swinging London in the 1980s and 1990s with her first label, Paraphernalia, and then her own New York boutique, Betsey Bunk. Now, late 1998 sees

her energy unabated. Her American business is thriving - there are now 21 Betsey Johnson boutiques across the US.

The designer with her trademark bright red hair, glam-rock boots, fuchsia pink tutu, and lightning tattoo above her cleavage, is thinking about moving to London full-time, having opened her first shop in the capital in June. In London, "I can feel happy about the way I look," she says.

Take a risk to get a First

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

STUDENTS WHO want a first-class degree can skip the odd lecture but should avoid writing all their essays while drunk, according to a new guide.

But they do need dedication and perseverance, states *How I got my First Class Degree*, which is aimed at students, parents and academics.

Nineteen first-class graduates reveal the secrets of their success in the book, which will be published next week to coincide with the start of the university year.

In the book, Mark McArdle (first-class honours in management, Lancaster University) advises undergraduates: "Getting a degree is about learning, but it isn't just about learning biology, history, English or whatever. It is also about understanding what is needed to succeed... You have to get a feel for the education market and really sell your aspirations."

Mike Barwise (first-class honours, combined sciences, University of East London) warns that there is no substitute for "humility and commitment". He writes: "To really learn, you must give your time, attention and effort."

But Donna Taylor (first-class honours, English, Edge Hill College) counsels against the ruthless quest for a First, and recommends that students "work, plan research and don't write everything while drunk".

She writes: "Set your sights high by all means, but do not start to write every assignment worrying that you have got to get above 70, otherwise your grade will slip."

Lancaster University sociologist Peter Timbie, the book's editor, said: "People who get Firsts tend to take a little bit of a risk with things and are perhaps a bit more imaginative. They take things a bit further than the written material."

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Greens stake claim to cabinet posts

ON FRIDAY morning, Germany's two victorious left-wing parties will begin the historic task of building the country's first "Red-Green" national government.

Each party will send a 12-member team to the negotiations, though the real work will have to be done behind closed doors by just one or two negotiators on each side. The discussions will be sensitive because of the huge differences between their respective positions, and the massive expec-

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

tations of their membership.

"We are going into the talks without preconditions, and nor do we accept preconditions," declared Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' chief negotiator. It fell to Joschka Fischer, the Greens' parliamentary leader, to clarify that there were indeed specific issues to hammer over; as he gave journalists a broad outline of his priorities.

Thus, the Greens are committed to forging an "alliance of jobs" between employers, employees and the government.

They are demanding an overhaul of the tax and welfare system, so as to cut the cost of labour in Germany and thus stimulate employment. They are proposing to finance the social welfare reforms by imposing an "environmental tax" on petrol.

In car-obsessed Germany, the fuel tax could emerge as the biggest issue separating the two coalition partners. The So-

cial Democrats are also proposing to increase the price of petrol, but by a lot less than their coalition partners, whose ultimate goal is DM5 a litre - roughly £1 a gallon.

The two parties should have little problem agreeing on a new nationality law, which would enable up to 3 million long-term foreign residents to become German citizens.

Though there are differences between the two parties' concepts, these can be bridged.

Foreign policy is a more serious point of conflict, especially in the light of persistent rumours that Mr Fischer has his eyes set on the foreign ministry. Without confirming his ambition, Mr Fischer sought to reassure journalists that he or his party no longer want to abolish Nato, and remain committed to Germany's international obligations. "We want a Europe-wide security system," he declared, without mentioning Nato by name.

Mr Schröder, in a separate meeting with the press, tried to

reassure Germans and foreign leaders that his government would change practically nothing. "Germany will not be a worse partner under a new government," he pledged. "The international community can rely on Germany to remain good partners."

Mr Schröder reiterated his commitment to European monetary union, dismissing reminders of his earlier opposition to the project as "history".

"The new government will do everything to make the euro

a success," he said. The chancellor-in-waiting was confident that the Greens were serious about power sharing.

"I have the impression that the leadership of the Greens is not entertaining the idea of forming a government contract for less than four years," he said. "Care comes before haste. We are not under pressure."

While refusing to discuss the distribution of ministerial portfolios, Mr Schröder repeated that he saw no objection

to the formerly pacifist Mr Fischer becoming foreign minister. "It is not the first time that I have said that I could imagine Joschka Fischer in that office," Mr Schröder said.

The SPD won 40.9 per cent of the vote to become the largest party in the next parliament. Together with the Greens, who claimed 6.7 per cent of the vote, they would command a majority of 21 seats. The CDU took 35.2 per cent and their liberal allies, the Free Democrats, won 6.2 per cent of the vote.



Workers in Hamburg yesterday removing an election poster backing Helmut Kohl, who lost Germany's general election on Sunday

Fabian Bimmer/AP

At last, Blair has a soulmate in Bonn

HE CALLS his party the "New" SPD, his slogan appealed to the political centre and he even produced an election pledge card for German voters.

Little wonder that when Gerhard Schröder was congratulated by Tony Blair on Sunday afternoon, the world was quick to point up the comparisons between the two men.

So is the new government in Bonn the beginning of a new

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

chapter in Britain's relations with Europe? On paper, the result is good news for Mr Blair. The chemistry is good between the two leaders. As one British diplomat put it yesterday: "No one is talking about an overnight change, but Britain and Germany suddenly have more interests in common."

Links between New Labour and the SPD are strong, forged in the international socialist group meetings which take place before summits. Jost Stollman, the 43-year-old entrepreneur and moderniser who was shadow economics minister, was the latest SPD visitor to London and duly impressed Blairites. Whitehall optimists see a series of issues on which Germany could enter

into strategic alliances with Britain.

But whatever the similarities between the two leaders there are doubts about the direction of the new government in Bonn. Mr Schröder presents himself as a moderniser; but some see this as more a matter of image than policy, and unrepresentative of his party as a whole.

The party chairman, Oskar

Lafontaine, is some way to his left and still very influential within the SPD. "It would", said one government source, "be much more difficult for the leader of the British Labour Party to keep on saying I represent the right direction of social democracy in Europe", when the French and Germans are taking a course more reminiscent of the 1970s.

Then there are the Greens

with whom Mr Schröder might form a coalition. In London there is concern that the new German foreign minister might be Joschka Fischer a Green. In April he was warned that if Mr Schröder "tried to widen the Franco-German relationship into a triangle with Britain it would be a disaster for Europe. The British government does not know what it wants" (in Europe).

In other words France could no longer count on war guilt, and a determination to end a century of Franco-German conflict, as the bedrock of the relationship between the two countries. It would have to be based on shared interests.

The fact Mr Schröder is a social democrat, like Lionel

The centre-left newspaper L'Humanité said France would now face a Germany stripped of all complexities in expressing and defending its own interests. In other words France could no longer count on war guilt, and a determination to end a century of Franco-German conflict, as the bedrock of the relationship between the two countries. It would have to be based on shared interests.

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In the short-term, however, Franco-German co-operation is likely to assert itself strongly. In Paris, it is confidently expected that Mr Schröder's first foreign trip will be to France, perhaps as soon as tomorrow.

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New Chancellor faces challenge from socialism's old believers

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

AMID THE wild celebrations at the SPD headquarters on Sunday, more than a few faces seemed lost in contemplation, furrows deepening across their brows as the hours dragged on. Many party officials could not hide the fear that they had just won the mandate from hell.

To Social Democrats of the "New Centre", the victory was too final. The thumping majority for "Red-Green" appears to have ruled out all alternatives, and threatens to swamp Gerhard Schröder and his allies with ideologues from the left.

The biggest challenge to centrist policies will come from Oskar Lafontaine, chairman of the Social Democrat Party.

From his power base in the Saarland, where he is Prime Minister, Mr Lafontaine controls the levers of the party machinery with great skill. He is an old believer, rooted to causes such as subsidising unprof-

itable coal pits and steel mills. Latterly, Mr Lafontaine has become a passionate advocate of reform of the international financial system. He is mistrusted by business, but hugely popular with party members. Mr Lafontaine is set to play a central role in coalition discussions with the Greens. He has been linked to a job as minister of finance. That, however, would damage Mr Schröder's

business-friendly image. So Mr Lafontaine is more likely to end up as head of the Social Democratic parliamentary group, traditionally the second most powerful job in the government. There is no shortage of ambition among Mr Schröder's coalition partners. Joschka Fischer, leader of the Greens, is often described as "the best chancellor Germany will never have". Aged 50, Mr Fischer is

the wittiest speaker in the Bundestag, a good organiser and a consummate manipulator. The path of this butcher's son to the summit of German politics is astounding. A former book salesman, taxi-driver and part-time revolutionary, Mr Fischer spent his youth in the radical leftist movement in the Sixties. Disillusioned with violence, he joined the fledgling Green movement, where he

quickly emerged as a realist. He has served as Justice Minister in the regional government of Hesse, and is almost universally regarded as the most capable potential minister of his party. If the coalition talks succeed, Mr Fischer is expected to become Vice-Chancellor, and possibly a foreign minister. The prospect of Mr Fischer addressing the United Nations on Germany's behalf frightens even some of his own members.

The key role in the coalition discussions will be played by Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' national spokesman.

Mr Trittin, 44, plays an uneasy balancing role between the left and the pragmatists of his party. An even more difficult task awaits him now: building a bridge between two parties and two almost irreconcilable sets of leftist politics.

If he succeeds, his reward will be a government job, possibly the ecologically hot seat in the transport ministry.



Doris prepares for life out of the limelight

SHE WAS by his side on Sunday night, stepping up for a rare appearance of the limelight as her husband milked the adulation. Doris Schröder-Köpf, Germany's First Lady, has not had much time to get used to her new role, and the country may need some time to become accustomed to her.

For one thing, she is one of the youngest wives to enter the

Hildegard. A divorced journalist who brought up her daughter, now aged seven, alone, the new First Lady might have become a role model for a generation of German women. Asked yesterday if she had any political ambitions, Ms Köpf said that, unlike Hillary Clinton, she was not interested. "I have another profession. I am a journalist," she said.

But when Mr Schröder started campaigning in the summer, his wife decided to give up her job at a radio station and to concentrate on looking after the household. The Schröders live in a small attic flat in Hannover. Despite her husband's campaign as a force for change, Ms Köpf so far fits the traditional German mold of the self-effacing politician's wife, unlike Hildegard, who was for ever spearheading causes and courting publicity.

Ms Köpf is intent on shielding herself and her daughter from prying eyes.

The family will not even be moving to Bonn. Ms Köpf will follow her husband to Berlin when he takes the government there next year.



Tipped for the top (from left), Oskar Lafontaine, Joschka Fischer, Jürgen Trittin

Opinion

osts

Hurricane Georges: New Orleans is spared the worst, but more than 1.5 million are evacuated as the storm surges inland

Winds of 172mph lash the South

HURRICANE Georges swept ashore in Mississippi yesterday, its torrential rain and furious winds wreaking havoc along the coast. One of the largest evacuations in history took most of the population inland, but meteorologists said that the storm would take days to move out of the area.

"Georges is drifting toward the north-west and the core of the hurricane is expected to move further inland over southern Mississippi," the National Weather Service said. But it warned that Georges would be difficult to predict in detail, and could change course. "Do not focus on the precise location and track of the centre. The hurricane's destructive winds, rain, and storm surge cover a wide swath," it said.

Georges has already left a trail of devastation across the Caribbean, where it left hundreds dead in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti and St Kitts and Nevis. It tipped the edge of southern Florida, badly damaging the Florida Keys, but then turned north-west to the Gulf coast. It moved ashore early yesterday at Ocean Springs in Mississippi, between Biloxi and Pascagoula, moving east at the last moment to spare New Orleans the worst.

Gusts of wind up to 172mph were recorded at Keesler Air Force Base near Biloxi, and sustained winds of 105mph were doing serious damage up and down the coast. They blew the roof off an emergency shelter in Gautier and ripped roofs and sidings of houses. Tornadoes, whipped up by the winds around the hurricane, caused heavy damage.

The rain that had already been falling along the coast intensified, with 20in in the Florida Panhandle and 10in in southern Alabama. The slow progress of Georges - it was inching along at 7mph, the speed of a jogger - meant that rain was expected to persist for days.

The surges produced by the storm were also bringing more water up the Mississippi delta, threatening the levees and flood defences of New Orleans. Tides were running 10 to 12 feet higher than normal, swamping

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

coastal towns and roads. More than 1.5 million people had been evacuated from the Gulf coast, "probably the largest evacuation we have ever achieved," said Lieutenant Colonel Ronnie Jones, of the Louisiana State Police.

The Gulf coast was devastated by Hurricane Elena in 1985. But afterwards, the tourism and gambling industries moved in in force, putting casinos and hotels up and down the coast. Mississippi's Governor, Kirk Furlong, said he had asked President Bill Clinton to declare an emergency, which would allow federal cash to be used to rebuild.

The hurricane cast a vast shadow over the region, with hurricane-force winds up to 75 miles from its centre and tropical storm-force winds 175 miles away. Hurricane warnings were in force from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Panama City in Florida. In Louisiana, power cuts affected 100,000, and in Florida beachfront houses were threatened by high tides. Storm surges left much of Mobile, Alabama, under water.

Forecasters say that after a period of relatively weak hurricane seasons, activity is picking up. Even as Georges was moving up towards the US mainland, meteorologists were tracking four others - the first time that four storms were in the same area at the same time. Some died away, but last night Hurricane Jeanne was making its way across the Atlantic, heading for the Azores.

William Gray, the doyen of hurricane forecasters, predicted that 10 of this year's tropical storms would become hurricanes. "This year will be distinctly more active than last year, but not as active as the very busy seasons of 1995 and 1996," Professor Gray said.

The ebbing of El Niño, combined with weather conditions in North Africa, make this a busier season, but much worse may be to come, exacerbated by a period of heavy coastal development that has seen large numbers of Americans move to areas vulnerable to hurricanes.

NEW ORLEANS breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as the city awoke to find Hurricane Georges had missed it and was instead bombarding the Gulf Coast in the neighbouring state of Mississippi.

The catchphrase that everyone was using was "we are not dropping our guard". In Britain, people would have talked about "not tempting fate", but in the bayous of New Orleans, with their voodoo traditions, perhaps they did not want to offend whatever spirits had saved the city from the worst.

The police and local authorities were taking no chances. More than a million people from the city and surrounding Louisiana basin are still in the shelters and the curfew, imposed at 6pm on Sunday, had still not been lifted by late yesterday. No one was too bothered as the wind was gusting at 50mph through the empty streets of the French Quarter,

driving the heavy rain into horizontal sheets.

The roads were deserted except for the hobos wrapped in makeshift plastic raincoats, picking up empty cans and garbage for the recycling industry, and the patrols enforcing the curfew. One police chief said that anyone caught sightseeing in a flooded area was breaking the law and would face a jail sentence.

Tens of thousands flocked to the city's nine shelters, including the Louisiana Superdome and the sprawling Ernest Morial Convention Center. The city had room to shelter 100,000 of its 450,000 people.

In the French Quarter, most of the bars on Bourbon Street were closed and covered with plywood. At least three establishments stayed open beyond the curfew, however, offering

drinks that included the aptly named "Hurricane" rum punch to a handful of stragglers.

At Deliquir's Delite Shop, Jill Zibkow, a lawyer from New York, drowned her sorrows with a Martian - a 2ft-tall dollquin in a green alien-shaped glass. She had arrived in New Orleans on Friday night for her 30th birthday. "Gee-Orge," she said as she sat at the bar. "We're just learning how to say it now. You have to have a couple of these Martians to say it properly."

Stranded in their homes, hotels and shelters, people formed a community through the airwaves. Locals phoned the radio stations from parishes across the area to tell the presenter when they lost power, when they lost television and how strong they thought the wind was.

"Hey, I haven't had any power for two hours," said one caller. André, the presenter, them up so we can look after them. They can stay with us."

There were tragedies, too.

One 86-year-old woman died on

one of the evacuation buses

while she was waiting for a shelter to find her a bed. Another man died after a fire broke out in his New Orleans home. The candles that he had bought to

make up for the lost power

started a fire and although he

managed to wake up his housemate, who did escape, he was

not so lucky.

In a poignant detail, it emerged that there was no back-up battery for his fire alarm, and that the weatherboarding on his home had impeded its escape.

But everyone knows it is the residents of Biloxi, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama, who have taken the brunt of Georges with reports of winds of up to 170mph.

The one major complaint from residents was against the local power company,

Entergy, which was variously accused of turning the power off for homes which were under an evacuation order even though the residents were still there, and for not repairing quickly enough those homes that had lost power because of the storm.

The one person to come out of this well is Nash Robert, the veteran hurricane expert with the local television station.

Throughout the hurricane warning, Mr Nash clung to his belief the hurricane would miss the city of New Orleans.

One radio presenter told his audience: "Why do we bother having a national hurricane service when we have Nash Roberts. With all their trillions of dollars of equipment and their models, they still didn't get it right. But when Nash Roberts said at 11.32am on Sunday that the hurricane would hit Biloxi, I told my friends - the hurricane is going to hit Biloxi."

US aid reaches stricken Caribbean island

THE AMERICAN relief effort for the Dominican Republic gained momentum yesterday, as tons of bottled water and plastic sheeting were ferried in for thousands of struggling storm victims.

More than 200 people were killed, hundreds were missing and 100,000 were left homeless

when Hurricane Georges struck the Dominican Republic last week. Most of the victims died in flooding or mudslides.

At the weekend, the United States Agency for International Development said the hurricane death toll in the Dominican Republic "is almost certain to exceed 500".

The US has shipped \$500,000 (£303,000) worth of supplies, including enough plastic sheeting to re-roof 15,000 homes.

Helicopter crews were hoping to reach San Juan de la Maguana, 120 miles west of the capital, Santo Domingo, where 76 bodies were recovered on Thursday. Half the town was

under water or buried in mud. In Cuba, where five people were killed in the storm and thousands left homeless, President Fidel Castro said the speedy evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people probably saved many more from dying during Georges' march across the island last Friday.

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Breakthrough in sight for Palestine

ISRAEL AND Palestine edged back towards a peace deal yesterday, raising hopes that a comprehensive agreement may be only weeks away. Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu met at the White House for talks that ended an 18-month stalemate, and a special summit that could herald a new Palestinian state was set for next month.

"We have made progress on the path of peace," said President Bill Clinton after the meeting. "There has been a significant narrowing of the gaps between the two parties." He said that a summit would follow in mid-October in Washington, where it was hoped that a package could be tied up.

"There is still a substantial amount of work to do until a comprehensive agreement can be reached," he admitted. But, he added, "we could finish it in mid-October, and I hope we do."

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Both America's Middle East negotiator, Dennis Ross, and the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, will return to the region to prepare for the October summit. It will involve a meeting over several days, with key officials and advisers from both camps in Washington. If the President manages to get an agreement, it will do him a lot of good in the region and in America at a time when his international image needs burnishing.

The mini-summit was intended to break the deadlock that has prevailed since Israel began building in east Jerusalem 18 months ago, plunging the region into gloom. The key issue was the withdrawal of Israeli troops from those remaining areas of the occupied West Bank that they control, and security guarantees from Palestinian authorities in return.

The deal is expected to involve Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the occupied West Bank, but with part of that – perhaps a quarter – held as a "natural reserve", one that would be patrolled by Israeli security forces and where Palestinian settlement would be ruled out.

Though it would be a great deal less than was held out by the Oslo Accords, the agreement would at least break the deadlock and allow some hope that a further and more comprehensive package was feasible.

The meeting was also intended to pre-empt a speech by the Palestinian President to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday in which he was expected to say that Palestine would declare statehood next May if there was no progress. Under the Oslo accords, May is the deadline for negotiations on the final phase of peace talks.

The US has been heavily criticised for failing to apply more pressure on Israel, which has dragged its feet on peace since Mr Netanyahu was elected Prime Minister. But over the weekend Ms Albright, met with Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu to see whether further progress was possible.

Mr Netanyahu had been invited to Washington yesterday, but the arrival of Mr Arafat as well showed that all sides thought there might be some increased room for manoeuvre. It was the first time that both had been at the White House since January, when the President's problems with Monica Lewinsky first emerged.

Israeli police forcibly remove Jewish settlers from the Arab market in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday AP



FBI targets East Europe's mafia bosses

THE FBI has set up a task force in eastern Europe to fight the international mafias that threaten to destabilise post-Communist governments, and to prevent the gangs spreading west to the European Union.

Based in Budapest, Hungary, the international force will investigate alleged corruption in the financial networks run by former Communist party officials, which are suspected of laundering the vast profits criminals make from drug smuggling and other rackets.

"The biggest threat to the emerging democracies is money-laundering, and the black markets there. If those economies start failing it could lead to a non-democratic government which would not be friendly to the West," said one FBI official.

The task force, composed of dozens of FBI and other law enforcement agents, will have an initial funding of several hundred thousand dollars, but will reach a "multi-million dollar commitment", said Peter Tufo, US ambassador to Hungary. "This is a joint strike force which is intended to assist in the prosecution and trial of organised crime groups."

Five East European countries – Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia – are front-runners for European Union membership, early in the next millennium.

All five countries contain organised crime gangs linked to former Soviet states. The nightmare scenario for the West is that the five's accession to the EU will provide the Russian mafia with a foothold in the EU's economy.

"There have been links between crime and government corruption. Organised crime

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

is growing and it is difficult to see anything other than more growth. These governments need to tackle it, and tackle it hard," said one Western official.

In Hungary, officials have been implicated in a series of scandals concerning subsidised heating oil, and questionable financial practices at several national banks including Postbank, which posted a 13 billion forint (£37m) loss last year and has now been taken over by the government.

The difficulties of persuading governments to tackle organised crime when some of their own officials may be implicated was highlighted at the launch of the FBI taskforce.

Mr Tufo was reported as saying: "Organised crime has penetrated the Hungarian government to some extent." But Hungarian government officials denied the claim.

The Hungarian capital is home to more than a dozen rival mafias, which run lucrative networks in drugs and weapon smuggling, prostitution, money-laundering and the illegal movement of refugees out of the developing world and into the West.

US officials fear that organised crime networks which use Budapest and other eastern European capitals as their base are also penetrating the United States economy.

The poorly paid and equipped police of eastern Europe are no match for the criminals, who model their organisations on multinational corporations. Many of their crimes, such as the white-slave sex trade and money laundering, were unknown under Communism.

IN BRIEF

Serbs claim victory in Kosovo

SERBIA CLAIMED victory over ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo yesterday and said its forces would return to barracks, but Albanian sources warned that the Serbs' offensive was not over. The announcement followed Serb attacks on villages south of Pristina, the Kosovo capital, which saw homes burning and civilians fleeing under artillery bombardments.

Le Pen appeals against ban

JEAN-MARIE Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, appealed in a Versailles court against a sentence to two years' ineligibility for public office and a suspended three months in prison. Mr Le Pen was found guilty in April of assaulting a female Socialist politician during the 1997 general election campaign.

Amnesty for Russian prisoners

THE RUSSIAN Justice Ministry said it planned to give amnesty to about 115,000 prisoners to ease prison overcrowding. The proposed amnesty would not apply to those facing murder charges. About a million people are in prison, including 300,000 awaiting verdicts.

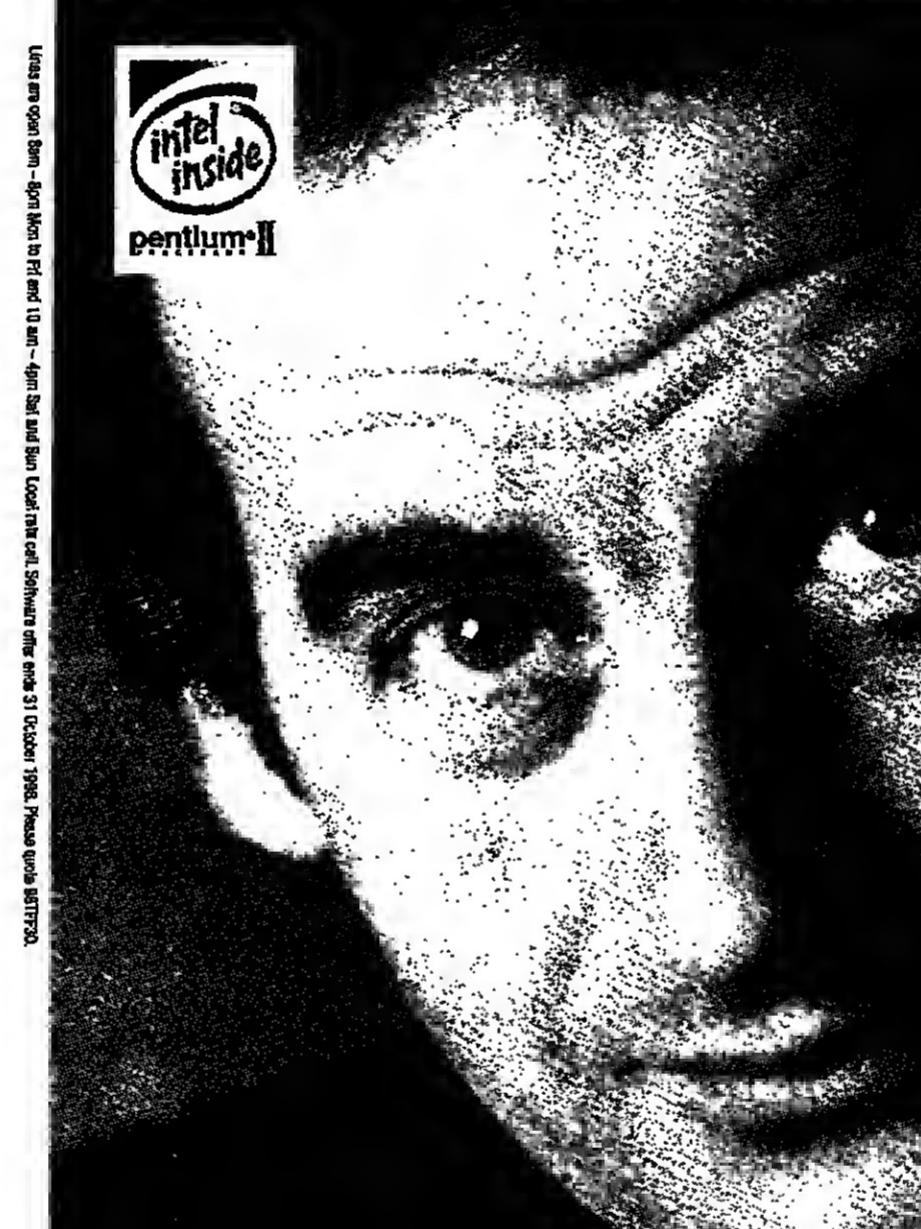
Dozens held in Malaysian protest

MALAYSIAN RIOT police arrested dozens of protesters while breaking up an anti-government demonstration in Kuala Lumpur. Thousands of protesters called for the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, to step down, and shouted support for the detained dissident Anwar Ibrahim.

Slovakia set for coalition rule

LEADERS OF Slovakia's four main opposition parties are discussing the formation of a coalition government, after Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar's party lost its position as the single biggest party in Parliament. The opposition parties won 93 of the 150 parliamentary seats.

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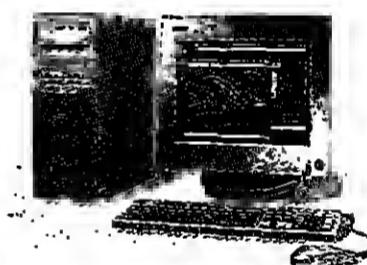


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Taliban split over Bin Laden

TENSIONS ARE emerging among factions of the Taliban government in Afghanistan over the future of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born millionaire who has been given refuge by the hardline Islamic militia.

Senior Taliban officials have admitted for the first time that the presence in Afghanistan of Mr bin Laden, accused of masterminding the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is a problem.

Conservative elements of the government, those close to Mullah Omar, the spiritual leader of the Taliban, still say Mr bin Laden is a "guest" who will be asked to leave the country.

The difference of opinion in the senior ranks of the Taliban raises the prospect of Mr bin Laden being asked to leave the country.

Last week Saudi Arabia withdrew its diplomatic representa-

BY JASON BURKE
in Kabul

tion in Kabul and ordered the Taliban chargé d'affaires to leave Ryad. The Taliban believe, probably correctly, this was linked to Mr bin Laden's continued presence in their country.

The Saudis believe that Mr bin Laden, who was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994 after being expelled three years earlier for agitating against the regime, was behind the US embassy bombings last month, as well as attacks in Saudi.

Saudi Arabia is one of only three countries to have recognised the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Earlier it provided massive financial support for the religious movement.

The Taliban believe that the Saudis are acting under pressure from the US. "They have been told to do it by the Americans," said Mullah Mohamed

Habib, deputy interior minister.

Some senior Taliban, particularly those who recognise the need for the regime to improve its image overseas, are beginning to distance themselves from Mr bin Laden.

The Americans are keen to bring him to trial and it is thought Washington would offer diplomatic concessions in return for his extradition.

Maulvi Mohammed Nabi Mohammedi, an influential cleric backed by a number of Taliban ministers, described Mr bin Laden's presence in Afghanistan as "a problem inherited from earlier regimes".

And although few Taliban will admit it, they have been ratified by the Saudis' decision to pull out their diplomats. Saudi money has been crucial to the Taliban advance, allowing them to buy out opposition commanders. It is not clear if the Saudis have cut off, or plan to return to Bangkok, where her owner can make more money from tourists.

Reuters



Russians lap up apocalypse flood theory

CITY LIFE
MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S economic crash - not to mention the Monica Lewinsky affair and other crises of contemporary life - will pale into insignificance if there is any truth in an end-of-the-world scenario being put forward by two Russian scientists.

Theoretical Geography or Imminent Disaster, by Anatoly Votyakov and his son Alexei, is a learned text with maps and diagrams, which sold out within hours of appearing in Moscow book shops this autumn.

Russians often comfort themselves by saying "biyotekhuzhe" (it could be worse). Crisis-stricken readers were attracted and appalled in equal measure by the authors' prediction that on top of economic meltdown, the world is soon to see a repeat of the biblical deluge.

The reason for this was simple, as explained to me by Dr Votyakov Sr, a bearded sage who would be perfect for the role of Noah. Despite global warming, he said, ice was building up at the polar caps. As a result, there would come a point when the Earth's crust would have to rearrange itself to distribute the weight more harmoniously.

"Once the ice exceeds a certain limit, a catastrophe will occur; a real deluge," he said. This, he added, had happened many times before in the Earth's four-and-a-half-billion-year history.

The proof, according to Dr Votyakov, who graduated in mathematics from the Urals University, then worked in a Moscow institute attached to the Academy of Sciences, was that if you looked carefully at the globe, you could see chains of mountains that followed the lines of former equators.

Other evidence came from geology and palaeontology. Studies from eastern Siberia showed that down in the permafrost there were layers of birch wood, 9,300, 26,800 and 31,900 years old.

That meant that in previous ages the area must have been warm. Remains of mammoths had been found with freshly swallowed grasses in their digestive tracts. Therefore they did not die of cold or hunger, but as a result of a sudden cataclysm.

Dr Votyakov and Alexei, both Orthodox Christians; note in their book that Noah's Ark, the 16th-century



French astrologer predicted the end of the world in 1999. "It was the only time he gave a specific date," said Dr Votyakov. Modern Russian seers go further and set the date for 19 July 1999.

Dr Votyakov's other son, Alexander, a metal trader whose firm paid for the publication of the book, joked that he was thinking of bringing out a calendar marked with this red-letter day.

"The process will begin when Greenland starts slipping towards the equator," Dr Votyakov said. "The first result of this will be that a huge tidal wave hits the east coast of America, making clear to everyone the total irrelevance of the dollar."

Initially the English Channel would recede and there could be a land path to France. But, later, Britain would be submerged along with the low-lying parts of Europe. Severe cold would render Japan and China uninhabitable.

Doomed cities include Montreal, Toronto, Rome, Paris and, of course, London. An option for Britons might be to flee to Norway, which is expected to survive. Muscovites will have a chance if they abandon their city for eastern Siberia, which is expected to enjoy a warm spell.

"I am not trying to sow panic," Dr Votyakov said. "It is just that people should know what awaits them."

Dr Votyakov rejects the role of Noah, saying he is too old to lead the survivors on the rearranged planet. Since General Alexander Lebed is already established in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, perhaps he is better placed to take the job.

HELEN WOMACK

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JULY 1998

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Trade deficit widens to £300m

BRITAIN'S TRADE deficit with the rest of the world widened slightly in July to £300m against £200m in June, with a slowdown in business with Russia adding to woes caused by the strong pound and weak demand from Asia.

Goods exports fell 1 per cent during July to £13.8bn while imports were stable at £15.2bn. But the widening trade deficit in goods during July was partly offset by trade in services where exports were stable. The balance of trade in the services showed a surplus of £1.1bn in July unchanged over the previous month.

However, with the numbers in line with City forecasts and not a key concern for the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, the report will have few implications for interest rates, economists said.

PowerGen chief cashes in options

ED WALLIS (left), chairman of the privatised electricity generator PowerGen, cashed in options worth over £350,000 yesterday, according to a statement released to the Stock Exchange. It said Wallis sold 54,000 options priced at £2.21 for £8.78.

Powergen, Britain's second largest non-nuclear generator, won government approval last week for its £1.9bn bid for electricity supplier East Midlands from Dominion Resources of the US.

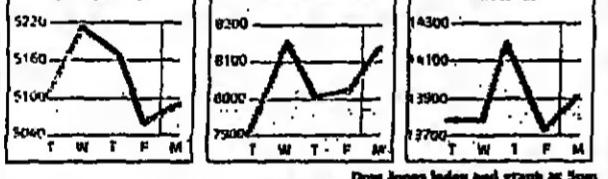
A row over levels of pay for the heads of Britain's privatised utilities has been simmering over the summer between industry and the government, fiercely critical in opposition of so-called "fat cat" directors.

King's Cross rail plan backed

RAILTRACKS' involvement in the rescue plan for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link was approved overwhelmingly yesterday by the track and signalling group's investors. Railtrack has agreed an option to buy the development rights for the land around London's King Cross and Stratford stations with London & Continental Railways, the consortium behind the rail link.

In a deal announced by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister in June, Railtrack will build and pay the first phase of the 68-mile high-speed link between London and Folkestone. The link will not be completed until 2007. The option on the London stations will only be exercisable if Railtrack also buy the second phase of the project.

STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	22 wks high	22 wks low
FTSE 100	5093.50	32.50	0.64	6189.70	4382.80
FTSE 250	4553.00	24.10	0.53	5870.90	4428.30
FTSE 350	2432.30	15.10	0.63	2969.10	2141.80
FTSE All Share	2397.15	13.30	0.57	2866.52	2106.59
FTSE SmallCap	2002.60	-8.90	-0.44	2793.80	2011.00
FTSE Fleeting	1131.10	-3.80	-0.34	1517.10	1134.90
FTSE AIM	845.50	-6.80	-0.81	1146.50	852.40
FTSE EBRC 100	851.19	17.25	2.07	1050.55	752.13
Dow Jones	8142.56	114.57	1.43	9367.84	6971.32
Nasdaq	13909.37	185.53	1.35	18053.55	13521.13
Hong Kong	7945.04	244.43	3.17	1242.65	6544.79
Dax	4653.94	92.36	2.03	6217.83	3487.24

INTEREST RATES



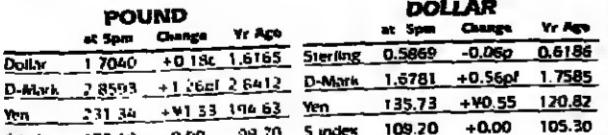
MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 months	Yr Ago	1 yr Ago	10 yr	Long term	Yr Ago
UK	7.37	0.07	6.94	4.95	-1.47	4.52
US	5.31	-0.41	5.06	-0.94	4.57	...
Japan	0.47	-0.11	0.48	-0.15	0.82	-1.33
Germany	3.49	0.18	3.57	-0.17	3.96	-1.45

BOND YIELDS

Index	3 months	Yr Ago	1 yr Ago	10 year	Long term	Yr Ago
UK	5.08	0.08	4.95	-1.47	4.52	-2.03
US	5.07	0.07	4.95	-1.47	4.52	...
Japan	5.12	0.07	4.95	-1.47	4.52	...
Germany	4.95	0.18	3.57	-0.17	3.96	-1.45

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Crude	14.42	-0.09	10.43	GDP	115.40	3.00	117.04	Sept	...
Gold (oz)	293.45	+0.93	226.75	RPI	163.70	3.30	158.47	Sept	...
Silver (oz)	5.14	-0.05	4.76	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	7.50	Sept	...

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Australia (\$)	2.7846	-	2.7846	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.80	-	15.80	-	15.80
Austria (Schillings)	19.49	-	19.49	Netherlands (gulders)	3.1246	-	3.1246	-	3.1246
Belgium (francs)	5.72	-	5.72	New Zealand (\$)	3.2620	-	3.2620	-	3.2620
Canada (\$)	2.4950	-	2.4950	Norway (krone)	12.31	-	12.31	-	12.31
Cyprus (pounds)	0.6140	-	0.6140	Portugal (escudos)	281.24	-	281.24	-	281.24
Denmark (krone)	10.60	-	10.60	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1772	-	6.1772	-	6.1772
Finland (markka)	8.4913	-	8.4913	Singapore (\$)	2.7396	-	2.7396	-	2.7396
France (francs)	9.3133	-	9.3133	Spain (pesetas)	234.66	-	234.66	-	234.66
Germany (marks)	2.7854	-	2.7854	South Africa (rand)	9.4280	-	9.4280	-	9.4280
Greece (drachma)	476.78	-	476.78	Sweden (krona)	13.16	-	13.16	-	13.16
Ireland (punt)	1.17	-	1.17	Switzerland (francs)	2.2947	-	2.2947	-	2.2947
Indian (rupees)	66.32	-	66.32	USA (\$)	1.6575	-	1.6575	-	1.6575
Israel (shekels)	6.0255	-	6.0255						
Italy (lira)	275.2	-	275.2						
Japan (yen)	225.79	-	225.79						
Malaysia (ringgit)	0.1508	-	0.1508						
Malta (lira)	0.6163	-	0.6163						

Thomas Cook

City jobs gloom as Merrill cuts costs by £150 million

MERRILL LYNCH cancelled its Christmas party and warned of bonus cuts yesterday as part of a drive to save £150m a year because of the market turmoil that has slashed the earnings of City investment banks.

The job terminations came just days after Banco Santander, the Spanish bank which took on the research arm of crashed Hong-Kong broker Peregrine earlier this year, announced 300 jobs were going in its investment banking offices in London, Hong Kong and New York.

Other houses which are planning to cut costs include Barclays Capital, which lost £250m in Russia; Salomon, whose parent Travellers is planning to cut 8,000 jobs worldwide through its merger with Citicorp; ING Barings and Credit Suisse First Boston which have also lost significant sums in emerging markets over recent weeks.

Salomon Smith Barney, although as many as 100 may have already found jobs elsewhere.

Salomon Smith Barney and Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette are operating unofficial hiring freezes.

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whose parent Travellers is planning to cut 8,000 jobs worldwide through its merger with Citicorp; ING Barings and Credit Suisse First Boston which have also lost significant sums in emerging markets over recent weeks.



Manchester United's store at Old Trafford: the company is joining forces with other retailing groups to help it expand world-wide

Manchester United to open 150 stores

MANCHESTER UNITED, which has accepted a £62m takeover bid by British Sky Broadcasting, is planning to open 150 stores around the world over the next three years in an attempt to cash in on its large international supporter base.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Kong are planned for next year. Peter Kenyon, Manchester United's deputy chief executive, said the football club was planning to join forces with other retailing groups to help it expand. It is targeting Ireland, Scandinavia and the Far East as its key markets.

He added that the stores would require "some fresh investment" from Manchester United but that the club was mostly lending its brand to the stores. The club is planning three different retail formats: a large megastore, a smaller stand-alone store, and a compact format that would fit inside other shops.

Manchester United yesterday reported a sharp drop in profits as a result of heavy transfer spending over the summer. In the 12 months to July, profits fell to £14.1m from £27.6m in the previous year.

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Back to basics for the market value pundits



HAMISH MCRAE

People are relying on borrowing or a rise in their asset values to sustain demand

of the decline in the stock market

IT WAS "phew!" time yesterday as bankers around the world began to contemplate what might have happened had the American authorities not cobbled together the deal to support John Meriwether's hedge fund last week.

We are not through the woods yet by any means, so expect a series of disturbing announcements from financial institutions about losses they have sustained.

Losses will stem not just from banks' loans to Long-Term Capital Management, but from the fact other banks were pursuing similar investment policies themselves. That is certainly what the plunge in bank share prices would lead us to expect.

It is impossible to say, but there may need to be rescues. However unless there is something truly dreadful still hidden, we should be prepared now for the focus of concern to change.

Expect two new developments: First, people will wonder why the US authorities had allowed the financial system to become so fragile. We all knew the Japanese banking system was fragile, but the American?

Secondly, they will become increasingly concerned about the way in which financial instability feeds back into the real economy.

On the first, there is not much that can be added at this stage. You cannot assess sensibly the regulatory failure until you know the full extent of the damage, and we won't for several months.

The second - the link between markets and the US economy - will become a live issue very fast. The US consumer has been the main engine of world growth through the last 12 months, even more than Europe, for continental European growth has been largely driven by exports, not home consumption.

Further, we cannot assume that continental Europe's recovery will be sustained. It will have to adapt to meet the demand of the one-size-fits-all monetary policy which will be imposed by the new European Central Bank in three months. It would be surprising if the policy tended toward the looser end of the possible range.

So US consumers are very important. This week sees new information about the health of the economy in the shape of consumer confidence, the US purchasing managers' survey, and unemployment. These are expected to be weak, though not in any dramatic way.

A fall in demand would be really troubling because consumers feel poorer as a result.

PDFM have highlighted the link between share prices and demand. Bill Martin, the chief economist, points out that the private sector's cash flow has gone negative for the first time since the early 1950s. In other words, people are relying on borrowing, or the rise in value of their assets, to sustain demand.

What happens if share prices fall? Well, the possible impact is shown in the chart: a dip of about 5 per cent in GDP from where it would have been otherwise, with the trough about 18 months from the time of the collapse.

Interestingly it doesn't seem to make an enormous amount of difference whether monetary policy leans against the fall in prices, or ignores it. As the graph shows, in the face of a sharp market decline, monetary policy is pretty marginal.

This is simply a computer prediction, and like all models, what comes out depends on what you put in. But clearly, if consumers have been relying on their accounts with investment banks to fund their spending, any fall in the market will have an immediate impact on this reliance.

Is a halving of US share prices realistic? Of course, no one can know. It is interesting, though, to note that the shares of some stocks have indeed halved in the few short weeks since the peak in July. By large it has been the second-division stocks that range.

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have fallen most, so the big-share indexes like the Dow (or for that matter the Footsie) have been less affected. But there is no law that holds that the shares of large companies cannot halve. That happened to the shares of Barclays Bank, a perfectly sound business, but one which has suddenly become rather unfashionable.

PDFM have made themselves unpopular by being among the most bearish on the US market. For a long time, they were declaring it over-valued and every rise made them look more exposed. They were too early, of course, but now they are in the sun - the people who saw through the hype and correctly forecast the present decline. They believe there is lot more disappointment to come.

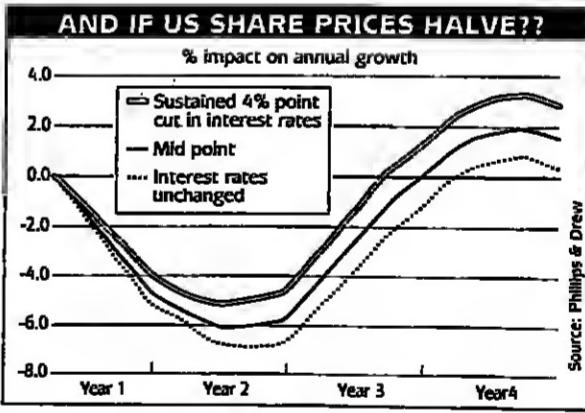
The difficulty is that really we do not know what measures to use, for you can construct measures which show that shares are still cheap - this applies both to London and to Wall Street. Thus if you look at the ratio between the yield on long-term bonds and the dividend yield of equities, you can claim that shares are still quite cheap. Bond yields have fallen so much that they have underlined the decline in equity yields.

If, on the other hand, you use a price/earnings ratio, then shares are desperately expensive. At the peak, the UK p/e was about 22, at the very top end of its long-term range, and the dividend yield was 2.9 per cent, at the bottom of its range. The US figures were 29 and 1.5 per cent, both of which felt extraordinarily high. PDFM said so loudly at the time.

The tough question now is whether the subsequent declines of about 20 per cent bring these values sufficiently into line.

My own view is that they don't, and that we are entering into a period where investment managers will go back to basics: fundamental, long-term analysis of cyclical trends.

Take a view that this is one business cycle just like all the others and both shares and the world economy have some way to fall.



Wassall poised to acquire TLG as US rival quits race

WASSALL, the mini conglomerate, yesterday claimed victory in the battle for control of TLG, the lighting group, after rival bidder Cooper Industries of the US pulled out of the race.

Houston-based Cooper yesterday said it would not increase its £321m offer for the British group, prompting the board of TLG, Europe's second-largest lighting fitter, to recommend Wassall's £251m bid.

John Riley, the chief executive of Cooper, said: "We have decided that higher bid for TLG would not provide the return we expect for our shareholders."

The US group had been under pressure to increase its bid since the beginning of this

victory "very likely". He said there were "no immediate plans" to cut jobs among TLG's 4,000 staff. The priority would be to increase TLG's return on sales to the level of its European competitors. He said he wanted to raise TLG's returns from the current 7 per cent to the 12 per cent posted by Dutch electronics giant Philips, the European market leader.

TLG was spun off from the music group Thorn EMI via a management buyout and floated on the market in November 1994 at 115p. The shares have been underperforming the sector over the past year as overcapacity in the lighting industry reined in earnings.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Allied London Pubs (F)	- (4)	16.12m (12.02m)	15.5p (10.79p)	2,860 (2,029)	0s	SL
British Mining (I)	1.35m (2.02m)	0.31m (0.19m)	2.35p (0.92p)	-	-	SL
Coca-Cola (F)	- (4)	22.8m (25.4m)	37.5p (29.09p)	14.40 (12.09)	03/11/98	SL
David Morris (F)	47.6m (53.2m)	2.0m (2.5m)	2.05p (2.55p)	13.00 (11.5p)	27/11/98	SL
Deutsche Börse (I)	- (4)	4.77m (3.69m)	4.77p (3.69p)	2,650 (2,409)	06/11/98	SL
Capital & Regional (I)	- (4)	3.58m (3.52m)	3.58p (3.52p)	1.00 (5.8p)	19/11/98	SL
Cars Group (I)	22.0m (21.3m)	-2.5m (-1.92m)	-2.5m (-1.92m)	-1.5p (-7.5p)	-	SL
Centrica (F)	22.08m (22.3m)	0.98m (0.84m)	2.1m (2.70m)	-1.0p (-7.2p)	-	SL
Chamberlain (F)	87.5m (87.5m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00 (0.00)	-	SL
Dimension Data (F)	24.1m (24.8m)	1.22m (1.27m)	1.22m (1.07p)	1.7p (1.55p)	25/11/98	SL
Dunlop (F)	82.4m (94.7m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00 (0.00)	-	SL
Eurostar Group (I)	9.4m (11.1m)	0.42m (0.36m)	0.42m (0.42m)	0.50 (0.6p)	27/11/98	SL
Freightliner (I)	5.2m (5.1m)	0.33m (0.42m)	0.33m (0.42m)	0.50 (0.6p)	27/11/98	SL
Scotiabank (F)	46.0m (52.1m)	2.18m (1.32m)	19.0p (12.8p)	4.0p (1.54p)	27/11/98	SL
Siemens (F)	10.0m (10.0m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00m (0.00m)	0.00 (0.00)	05/11/98	SL
Unilever Energy (F)	2.75m (2.97m)	-0.15m (-0.20m)	-0.15m (-0.20m)	-0.15 (0.15p)	27/11/98	SL
World Telecoms (I)	9.23m (3.22m)	-3.53m (-0.00m)	-3.53m (-0.00m)	-3.75 (-4.3p)	-	SL
(F) Final (I) Interim						

July 1998

Formula One off the starting grid

IF AT first you don't succeed... Having failed to float his company on the stock market last year, Bernie Ecclestone, chief executive of Formula One, is trying a different tack - securitising it. This appears such a neat way of allowing Mr Ecclestone to realise a large slug of his investment, without having to go through the disciplines of a stock market float, that it's a wonder no one thought of it before.

Yet this time last year Formula One and its adviser, then Salomon Brothers, were doggedly sticking to the line that the company could and would be floated in a matter of months - this despite the fact that the constructors that make Formula One work were disputing both Mr Ecclestone's rights of ownership and his claim to the lucrative TV rights that support the sport. It was plain to everyone other than Salomon and Mr Ecclestone that the bird could not be made to fly.

Now everything is sweetness and light once more. A new adviser has been brought in, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter; the teams have agreed a new concord dividing up TV revenue for the next 10 years, and Mr Ecclestone has ceded limited ownership rights to the constructors on



OUTLOOK

terms they seem happy with. So what's to stop Formula One trying for a second time at flotation, apart from the turbulent stock market that is?

The answer seems to be the "Max factor" - broadly defined as City investors' strong mistrust of and aversion to maverick entrepreneurs.

Morgan Stanley has concluded that while these investors might not take equity, they will take more highly-securitised debt. Once they have got used to that, and in the process familiarised themselves with the company, they might eventually take the equity as well. The £20m securitised bond issue is deliberately structured to lead to a float, in that there is a step

up in the coupon after five years if the bond hasn't been repaid by then.

So everyone's happy, aren't they? Formula One finds a way of introducing itself to the City and gaining its confidence. Mr Ecclestone's family gets its £20m with the promise of more to come once the company is floated a couple of years hence, the teams get a slice of the action, and Morgan Stanley gets its fee. What possible problem could there be?

One is that the coupon demanded by investors for such securitisations has risen markedly over the past couple of months. Formula One's revenues from TV and merchandising are as predictable and secure as any, but in these markets only Group of Seven governments are regarded as entirely dependable. Put another way, financial engineering of this type may be very much in the interests of the Ecclestone family, but City support will come at a high price.

Dream team?

STUART ROSE has been linked with more top jobs over the last year than Will Carling has had blond-haired women. That's no mean feat, assuming the former England rugby

captain's record is more than just fantasy. Many of Mr Rose's supposed dalliances were probably imagined too, but finally, and after several false starts, he seems to have scored.

It was little more than a year ago that the forthright Yorkshireman was seen as the front-runner to take the helm at WH Smith, having lost out to Terry Green in the battle to run Debenhams. The Smith's job went to Richard Handover and Mr Rose remained on the jobs market. Then along came the GUS bid for Argos. Mr Rose was parachuted in with a golden hello that guaranteed him £540,000 even if he lost the bid. This he duly did, albeit after a spirited defence. Since then, he's been cited as a front runner for virtually every chief executive's post going. After all, that might have been thought he'd do rather better than Booker, a by-word for corporate awfulness.

Still, Mr Rose gets an Argos-style remuneration package which says he will receive a full £400,000 year's pay even if Booker fails to a takeover bid at any time in the first 12 months. Then, of course, there are the share options pitched at a price that ought to prove a historic low.

For Mr Rose, this seems a case of heads he wins, tails he wins. If he fails,

he'll be able to say Booker was beyond saving. If he succeeds, he will be hailed as a corporate hero. Mr Rose did a good job defending Argos and he is seen in the City as a good appointment.

Certainly he stands a reasonable chance of success. Booker is a business that has £5bn of sales but makes operating returns of a paltry two per cent. The previous management has pumped millions into improving the distribution and warehousing systems. That investment may be on the brink of paying off. Even so, it is worth noting what a terrible old merry-go-round the higher echelons of British corporate life have become. Whenever there's a top job in the offing, the same old names get trotted out, and generally one of them gets it. Where's the new talent, where's the young blood capable of offering a genuinely fresh approach?

Let's hope that Booker's "dream team" of Mr Rose and John Napier proves equal to the task.

ONdigital

STEPHEN GRABINER must know what it's like to be a game show contestant. For the past few months the

chief executive of ONdigital, the pay-TV service that will hit our screens in November, has been taking part in a particularly grueling contest called Challenge Round.

The concept is simple. A plucky contestant is charged with setting up a broadcasting company from scratch to take on the mighty BSkyB. But first his previous employer refuses to let him leave. Then he is given inferior programmes and less cash to play with. To top it all off, he has to rely on a reluctant BSkyB to supply him with key sports and movie channels - something he only achieves with the help of numerous wits.

Given the odds against him, Mr Grabiner has done rather well. Standing in a studio at London Weekend Television yesterday, he put a convincing case for why people should choose ONdigital. Don't blight your house with a satellite dish or dig up your garden to lay cable - ONdigital will plug straight into your existing aerial. If you can't get it to work, they'll send out an engineer, and even give you a new aerial if you need one. You can pick any six channels you want from a list of twelve, for just £7.99 a

month. And you'll be allowed to change them any time you like.

The hope is that this approach

will be sufficiently appealing to the dish-hating technophobes of Middle England to give Carlton and Granada ONdigital's shareholders, the three or so million subscribers they need to make a return on their investment.

Unfortunately, this may be an offer consumers feel they can refuse. If it's channels you after you could have a much broader choice from Sky for more or less the same price. For interactive services and internet access, you're better off with the cable operators.

All Mr Grabiner has done so far

is drag ONdigital to the starting line, ensuring that it does not fall too far behind Sky in the initial battle for subscribers. That in itself may be no mean achievement, but what ONdigital really needs is more compelling, original content if it is to be more than an also-ran in the digital race. The nightmare is that it ends up like British Satellite Broadcasting, its ill-fated predecessor in the Marco Polo building south of Chelsea Bridge. That company was eventually subsumed by Sky.

Booker finds its dream team

BOOKER, THE struggling cash-and-carry operator that has been spurned by two potential bidders in the last two months, claimed to have found "the dream team" yesterday when it named a new chairman and chief executive.

The new chief executive is Stuart Rose, the former Burton director who was brought in by Argos in the spring to run the catalogue retailer's defence against the hostile bid from Great Universal Stores. Joining as chairman is John Napier, the former managing director of Hays' logistics business. His arrival heralds the departure of Jonathan Taylor, the current chairman, who has been out of favour with City institutions.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Mr Rose, who was paid £540,000 for just a few months work when Argos fell to the GUS bid, will enjoy a similarly generous contract with Booker. He will receive a salary of £400,000 and 1.5m share options priced at around 100p. As Booker is still considered vulnerable to a bid Mr Rose will enjoy a two-year contract for the first two years and will be paid a full year's salary if Booker is taken over at any time within the first 12 months. A takeover would also trigger his share options. "It is not about money but I have to protect my family," Mr Rose said.

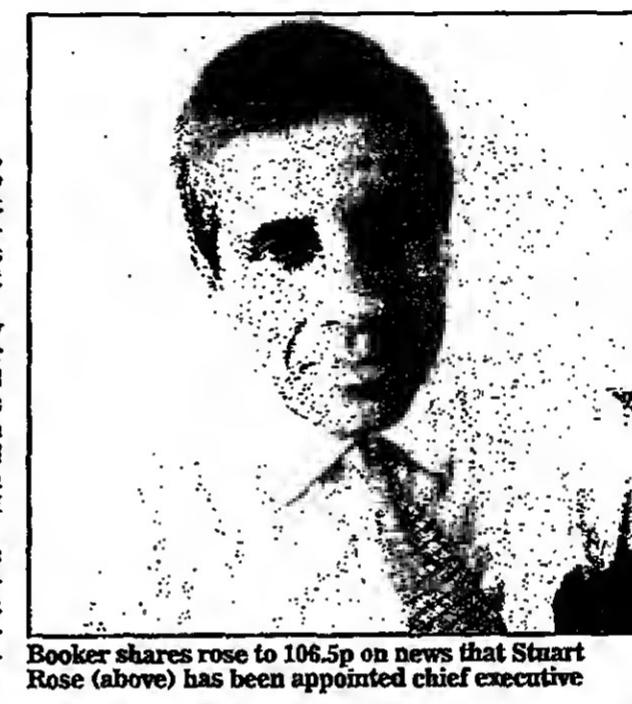
Mr Rose, who will join in 10 days' time, said he supports Booker's stated strategy of disposing of its non-core businesses, such as salmon farming, to concentrate on the core cash-and-carry business. "I want to make Booker more of a retailer and a company that is more responsive to its customers," said Mr Rose. "It is a strong business, with a big turnover and the potential for strong cash flow."

Mr Taylor said he felt he was departing with Booker in safe hands. "It is a good team with a doughty, battle-hardened chief executive and hugely experienced chairman who brings key distribution and logistics skills."

The City welcomed the news, marking Booker shares 15p higher at 106.5p. One analyst said: "The market reaction suggests that this [Stuart Rose] is a better calibre of appointment than the City had feared."

Mr Rose, 49, spent many years at Marks & Spencer where he was involved in food retailing. More recently he has been chief executive of Burton Menswear, Dorothy Perkins and Principles. He was linked with the chief executive job at WH Smith last year.

Booker held takeover talks with Somerfield and then Budgens earlier in the summer. However both companies eventually walked away from a possible deal.



Booker shares rose to 106.5p on news that Stuart Rose (above) has been appointed chief executive

Close Brothers' shares dive 12%

SHARES IN Close Brothers dived nearly 12 per cent yesterday, writes Andrew Garfield, after chief executive Rod Kent warned of a "challenging" year ahead for the investment banking group whose clients include Henlys, the builder, and Dan Wagner's information group MAID.

Close Brothers' business is exclusively domestic. But despite escaping the problems in Asia and Russia, Close Brothers has seen signs of a slowdown in all business since its July year-end and is taking a cautious view of the year ahead.

"Most slowdowns are deeper and last longer than people think at first," said Mr Kent. "We are at the beginning of a very uncertain period."

Close Brothers will be looking carefully at which businesses it wants to be in. But Mr Kent added that there may be opportunities for selective acquisitions, particularly in asset management. "Historically we get active in recessions," he said.

Profits in the year to the end of July increased 26 per cent to £9.6m, the 23rd successive year of profits growth. Winterflood Securities enjoyed a 39 per cent jump in profits, and merchant banking reported a 31 per cent increase. Close acted in 40 transactions to a value of £3bn.

VOLVO

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THE VOLVO S40 1.6 XS £14,495

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High	Low	Stock	Price	Ctg	Tm	P/E Ratio	High	Low	Stock	Price	Ctg	Tm	P/E Ratio
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES													
300 Allied Domecq	115.8	80	83	14.4	112	10.2	201	173	173 Fisons Plc	8.0	8.0	2.94	12.22
405 Amstel	301.9	80	83	14.4	112	12.8	202	249	249 Galleria Plc	52.2	52	12.22	12.22
54 Bantam Star	111.2	80	83	3.2	405	11.2	203	243	243 Hounds Eye	24.0	24	14.0	20.23
75 Baxters	482.5	80	83	4.4	112	12.8	204	211	211 BB Chem	19.0	19	2.7	27.0
755 Bell & Evans	22.4	20	24	1.2	112	12.8	205	190	190 British Telecom	19.0	19	3.6	30.0
782 Bell & Evans	285.1	10	10	10.0	120	12.8	206	190	190 British Telecom	19.0	19	3.6	30.0
783 Bell & Evans	120.0	80	123	4.2	112	12.8	207	155	155 BT Group	19.0	19	3.6	30.0
784 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	208	124	124 Bungee	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
785 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	209	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
786 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	210	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
787 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	211	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
788 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	212	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
789 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	213	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
790 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	214	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
791 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	215	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
792 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	216	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
793 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	217	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
794 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	218	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
795 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	219	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
796 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	220	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
797 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	221	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
798 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	222	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
799 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	223	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
800 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	224	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
801 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	225	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
802 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	226	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
803 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	227	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
804 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	228	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
805 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	229	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
806 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	230	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
807 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	231	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
808 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	232	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
809 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	233	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
810 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	234	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
811 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	235	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
812 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	236	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
813 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	237	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
814 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	238	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
815 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	239	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
816 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	240	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
817 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	241	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
818 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	242	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
819 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	243	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
820 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	244	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
821 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	245	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
822 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	246	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
823 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	247	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
824 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	248	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
825 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	249	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
826 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	250	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
827 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	251	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
828 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	252	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
829 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	253	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
830 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	254	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
831 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	255	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
832 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	256	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
833 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	257	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
834 Banks	102.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	258	124	124 Cadbury	12.5	12	1.8	20.0
835 Banks	842.0	80	83	2.3	201	12.8	259	124	124 Cadbury</				

Mobile phones sound an anguished ring

MOBILE PHONES had an anguished ring as the stockmarket fretted about increased regulatory interference. Vodafone fell 27p (after 42p) to 696p; Orange 14p to 567p and BT, which controls Cellnet, 9p to 787p. Securicor, with the Cellnet minority, lost 13p to 367p.

Dave Edmunds, director general of telephone regulator Ofcom, expressed concern over the weekend about the level of competition in the industry and said he intended to probe the mobile phone industry in the New Year. Due to the mobile phone retreat telecoms was the worst performing sector, falling almost 1.4 per cent.

The rest of the market, despite busy trading with share turnover again topping 1 billion, turned in a muted display, ignoring a buoyant New York. Footsie struggled to a 32.5 points gain to 5,083.5, and the mid cap index rose 24.1 to 4,583. But for the small caps it was another dismal session with the index hitting a new low this year down 8.9 to 2,002.6. Hopes of an interest rate cut, possibly half-a-point, spurred American shares.

Norwich Union, the insurance group, was one of the best performing blue chips, strengthening 27p to 460p as take-over stories resurfaced.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

forming blue chips, strengthening 27p to 460p as take-over stories resurfaced.

Once again Halifax, which won Westminster clearance for its takeover of Birmingham Midshires Building Society, was the name in the frame. With the mortgage market becoming increasingly competitive the old building societies are finding it increasingly difficult to hold their market share. As margins continue to narrow they are thought to be casting around for diversification and insurance is seen as a likely di-

rection for the likes of Halifax, down 8.5p to 733.5p.

Giacco Wellcome shamed 5p to 1,703p after confirming it had developed a treatment, Relesta, which shortens the life of the flu bug and reduces its impact. The pharmaceutical giant also reported positive developments on the HIV front.

Boots firmed 14p to 1,008p ahead of meetings with analysts and Kingfisher added 6p to 533p with SG Securities putting a 500p tag on the shares.

Cadbury Schweppes was lowered 13.5p to 775p after Merrill Lynch lost some of its enthusiasm, and Coca-Cola Beverages rose 3p to 185.5p despite BT Alex Brown's sell advice. The investment house has, following Friday's uninspiring trading statement from the parent Coca-Cola group, reduced its estimates of today's half-year profits to a bottom-of-the-range 1.16m. Some houses are looking for 22m.

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, failed to respond to Lehman Brothers' enthusiasm, shading to 319.5p. The securities group put a 600p target on the shares.

Booker, the struggling cash and business Post's heading plunge came to an end with the shares,

carry chain, greeted the arrival of John Napier, chairman, and Stuart Rose, chief executive, with a 15p gain to 106.5p. The dream team has plenty of scope for improvement; Booker's shares were 478p five years ago.

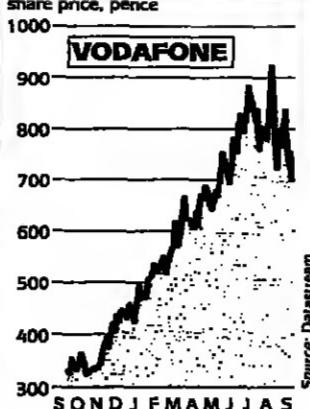
HARTFORD, NOW taking in the trendy Pharmacy restaurant in London's Notting Hill, returned to market at 2p against the 0.75p at which the shares were suspended while the take-over went through.

The company is intent on rolling out the Pharmacy concept in European cities and New York. It is also looking at the possibility of establishing a chain of fast-food outlets based on kebab shops in this country.

TLC, the lighting group, fell 11.5p to 171.5p, after Wassall re-inventing itself as a venture capital group, won the take-over struggle with its £30m offer. Wassall fell 11p to 26.5p.

Business Post's heading plunge came to an end with the shares,

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



967.5p in spring, rallying 52.5p to 277.5p.

Carlton Communications, rumoured to be planning a bid for Aston Villa, firmed 12p to 400p after a presentation on its ONdigital launch. Its partner Granada gained 17.5p to 689.5p but Shell, still unsettled by its profits warning, gave up 12p to 356p. Land Securities, the property group, lost 22p to 908p as Merrill Lynch grew cautious.

Billiton improved on the firm's commodity prices with the South African group 11.25p higher at 137.5p. Oil responded to recent signs the crude oil price was hardening - Richard Savage at SG Securities forecasts an 18 barrel

Railtrack was on the express line, reaching a 1,660p peak, up 54p, with work due to start next month on the high-speed link between London and the Channel Tunnel.

Stentor, the Irish telecoms business, fell 31.5p to 26p before being suspended "pending a further announcement". Superframe, which makes and designs retail display units, gained 4.5p to 17.5p. The group is thought to be the target for Mike Macdonald, chairman of Sheffield United, who is said to be seeking a vehicle for some of his unquoted interests. Dean Corporation, the house builder and property services group, has more than 29 per cent.

Devro, the sausage skin maker said to be on bid alert, gained 13.5p to 245.5p and hopes of corporate action at Zetters, the pools group, produced a 12.5p advance to 117.5p.

Chloride was little changed at 40.5p as Albert E Sharp made favourable noises, pointing out the electrical group should have £22m cash by March, equal to 13p a share.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1,096bn
SEAQ TRADES: 54549
GILT INDEX: 112.38 + 0.86

Wet summer dries up Greenalls' beer sales

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

GREENALLS GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £890.158m, share price 303.5 (0.5p)

Trading record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998*

Turnover (£m) 770.35 765.42 735.25 715.85 700.05

Pre-tax profits (£m) 74.83 100.71 117.43 137.65 160.0

Earnings per share (p) 13.10 14.20 15.40 16.71 18.0

*forecast by Merrill Lynch

Share price pence

Source: Datastream

Types of pub

Total 790

Taverns 400

Food 252

Theme 138

Source: Datastream

next January, the shares look decent value in an unloved sector.

Poor time for Pilkington

WHEN Paolo Scaroni took over as chief executive of Pilkington 17 months ago, the glassmaker's shares jumped to almost 130p. Yesterday they closed unchanged at 60.5p, in spite of the company issuing a reassuring trading update ahead of its interim results due in a month.

To be fair this underperformance can hardly be blamed on Mr Scaroni. His plan to drag Pilkington's productivity up to the level of its main competitors by cutting 7,500 workers remains on track and should be complete by March.

One-off factors such as the strike at General Motors, which cost Pilkington 27m, and interest-rate hikes in Brazil, which hurt car-buying, could hardly have been foreseen.

In profit terms, things should get better. Analysts cut their profit forecasts yesterday to about £15m - in line with last year's figures. For the following year - the first with the full benefit of the cost-cutting - they expect anything from £180m to £200m, which puts the shares on a forward earnings multiple of just six.

However, Pilkington is operating in an intensely competitive industry which is prone to cyclical swings.

The danger is that at least some of the benefits of the latest round of cost-cutting will simply evaporate in lower prices.

Add in worries about Pilkington's debt load, which will be swelled by the redundancies, and the shares - the 8 per cent dividend yield aside - have little to command them.

Mr Scaroni is doing as well as anyone could be expected to do under the circumstances, but for the time being investors are best off avoiding this industry altogether.

The Coast concessions business, which was acquired for £1m in April, has yet to make a contribution, but will gradually be shifted toward a high-street operation and could look interesting in two or three years.

Overall, the margin has edged up, which is no mean feat.

Store openings have been pegged back owing to high property rents.

The Coast concessions business, which was acquired for £1m in April, has yet to make a contribution, but will gradually be shifted toward a high-street operation and could look interesting in two or three years.

On full-year forecasts of £12m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of just 9 and yield 5 per cent.

With comparisons weak until

Medicine works for Oasis

OASIS HAD a disastrous 1997, with two profits warnings dragging the shares down from 421p to a low of 120p. Since then the women's fashion retailer has been undergoing a gradual rehabilitation.

The buying mistakes which wrecked trading last year are one of the risks that come with the territory in fashion chains. But Oasis has been beefing up its buying department, introducing better systems and more checks and balances to ensure things do not get so out of kilter again.

So far the medicine seems to be working. Pre-tax profits of £4.8m for the first half were 30 per cent higher than the same period last year, pushing the shares 8.5p higher to 160p.

The key-like-for-like figures look encouraging, although the business is trading against

extremely weak comparisons. Same-store sales grew by 9 per cent in the first half and are up by 19 per cent in the first seven weeks of the second.

August was grim, with poor weather hampering sales of summer dresses and the like. Oasis marked stock down aggressively and managed to shift most of it before its autumn ranges came in.

Overall, the margin has edged up, which is no mean feat.

Store openings have been pegged back owing to high property rents.

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the shares trade on a forward multiple of just 9 and yield 5 per cent.

With comparisons weak until



All ready for the brokers' scrum as the City's finest battled for rugby honours last Sunday at Richmond

Lloyd's triumph in black

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

ALL THOUGHTS of the dwindling rouble and crashing hedge funds were banished on Sunday as the City's finest battled it out for the annual Reuters City Sevens.

The rugbyfest at Richmond Athletic Ground has been organised by Keith Sheppard ever since he set up the tournament in 1973. Having spent 30 years in the City, mostly with Hoare & Co, Mr Sheppard is now retired.

Lloyd's of London won the shield for the second year, beating Warburg Dillon Read in the final. This prompted some muttering amongst the throng that the chaps from Lime Street enjoyed an advantage in that they can select players from any company in the whole of the Lloyd's insurance market.

Such whingeing (and it didn't come from the gallant Warburgs) makes Mr Sheppard laugh: "I was ever thus. Halfax was drawing on people from their Wales office.

Lloyd's have a very fine tradition to hold up: they won in 1995 as well and if they turn up with some players, I'm not going to turn them away."

Mr Sheppard added that the Stock Exchange team had always provided a valuable service by picking people from

to its annual lecture on "Bust Banks: Global View". Liliana Rojas-Suarez, chief economist for Latin America at Deutsche Bank Securities, will be telling it like it is on 22 October.

TELSPEC, the Kent-based developer of telecoms equipment, said yesterday that Jonathan Paget, group chief executive, has left the group "by mutual consent", effective immediately.

The company has formed a committee of the board to run things until a new head can be found. The committee includes Donald Muir (group finance director) and Eddie Hughes (group manufacturing director). It will implement a programme of cost-cutting and restructuring.

David Ball (chairman of Nortel) and John Westhead (non-executive deputy chairman of Bawthorne) will also sit on the committee in their capacity as non-executive directors.

As a stop-gap measure, Mr Muir will assume the chief executive's role in Telspec Europe. Mr Hughes will continue to run for Telspec Australia.

SOUTH LONDON maestros Crystal Palace recently signed

the first ever Chinese footballers to a UK side, presenting novel problems for the club's legal advisers, SJ Berwin.

The club's owner Mark Goldberg, who made his fortune in IT recruitment, and its manager Terry Venables, were both keen to get the Chinese duo on board. At £1.35m per player they were a bargain by British standards.

But first Nicola Kerr, a partner in SJ Berwin, had to provide the British labour authorities with the evidence to justify the proposed transfers of Fan Zhiyi, the captain of the Chinese national side, and international defender Sun Jihai.

Ms Kerr told *The Lawyer*: "Although Fan and Sun are superstars in China, it was clear that Britain's football governing bodies - the Football Association, the Football League and the Professional Footballers Association - had insufficient information on the state of the Chinese game."

This meant Ms Kerr had to liaise with Palace, currently mid-table with Nationwide Division One, as well as with the various Chinese 'footy' authorities in preparing an application to the Overseas Labour Service in London.

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME (\$/tonne) Cash Chg 3 month Chg LME/spot Chg

Aluminum 1313 1314 -3.50 1345.5 1345.5 -2.5 509850 2150

Aluminum Alloy 1127 1128 -8.00 1163 1163 -2.5 77680 2725

German Steel 1136 1137 -11.70 1174.5 1174.5 -2.5 5237.0 2225

German Zinc 1128 1129 -13.50 1171.5 1171.5 -2.5 6547.0 2225

Iron Gvmt 128.91 128.73 138.91 138.91 763.0 763.0

Iron Ore 93.08 93.10 93.05 12853.0 12853.0 190673.0 2150

Lead 93.48 93.51 93.46 11895.0 11895.0 16340.0 2150

Mn Chg 93.46 93.46 94.46 15062.0 15062.0 54036.0 2150

Mn Extrale 96.47 96.47 96.30 96.24 1104.00 16959.00 26772.00

Mn Gvmt 96.54 96.54 96.31 96.31 8520.00 16959.00

Mn Ing 96.52 96.52 96.33 96.22 7829.00 72

SPORT

Hakkinen ready for the final lap

As the Formula One championship nears its climax in Japan, Derick Allsop finds the Finnish driver determined to end McLaren's lean streak

THE SOUND of Queen boomed out from the McLaren-Mercedes camp, providing an appropriate anthem: "It's a kind of magic... one dream... one prize... one goal".

That goal had come tantalisingly into view and the magic could not be suppressed. Even Michael Schumacher's fans gatecrashed the party and had their red caps autographed by Mika Hakkinen's accommodating if slightly bemused wife, Eija.

Hakkinen was still locked in a private compartment of the motor home; showered, changed, alone with his thoughts, some scattered gear and a picture given him for his birthday. It was a precious opportunity to quietly savour the satisfaction of his achievement.

Victory in the Luxembourg Grand Prix had given him a potentially decisive advantage over Schumacher in the Formula One world championship and convinced a sceptical sport he was worthy to aspire to its ultimate goal.

"We've not won here by luck, or somebody going off, we've won because we were fast and had the right tactics," Hakkinen, who was 30 yesterday, said.

"I proved a point and if I win the championship I will feel I deserve it. But when I am on the track, I never think about what people think. I just race for myself. I believe in my abilities."

"A lot of other drivers deserve to win it and have proved they're great drivers. Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve had to fight for it in the last couple of years. A driver like Johnny Herbert, who has been racing many years, also deserves it."

Second place in the final race of the season, in Japan on 1 November will be enough to give the magnanimous Hakkinen the championship, even if Schumacher wins. The Finn

might be forgiven if he now applied additional psychological pressure to his adversary and the Ferrari team, but that is evidently not his style.

"I don't see any difference in Michael because of this defeat," Hakkinen said. "He feels bad, of course, he is down, especially because this is in Germany. I would feel the same if it had happened to me in Finland."

"But the last race, in Italy, was a disaster for us and we came back, and Michael will be back just the same, lifting his team. We do that because we are both professional. He knows you just have to keep going, and maybe the team will find some improvements in testing."

Hakkinen, who joined

People here have been through hard times and appreciate it when they win. I know how they feel'

McLaren in 1993 on the advice of his manager, Keke Rosberg, has shared with the team some of their leanest years, an experience which renders success all the more rewarding.

"You have to believe in a team and stick to a team with potential, Keke told me to come to McLaren because they had the record, the history. They have great people, the package and the sponsors, and when you have that you know that if you work, one day you will win."

"Some of the people here have been through hard times, and they appreciate it when they win. I know how they feel. They're working flat out and believe in me 100 per cent. That is one of the reasons I don't want to let them down."

Rosberg, Finland's first and last world champion, in 1982, is unrestrained in his appraisal of Hakkinen and the impact his driver has had on Formula One here.

"People have finally recognised Mika is a great racing driver," he said. "Even after his wins in Austria and Monaco this year people were saying he'd crack under the pressure and that Michael is better than anyone."

"The trouble is, Michael plays down the car, saying the Ferrari is no good, to make himself look better. McLaren drivers are part of a team. If Mika had driven for Ferrari here the church bells would now be ringing in Italy."

"Michael now knows what he faces, that Mika is not an easy touch. Michael will probably be praying for rain in Japan, but Mika can win in snow, rain or sun."

"It's going to be some fight at Suzuka. It can be just as difficult to be second as it is to win a race."

Jean Todt, Ferrari's sporting director in every sense here, commended Hakkinen on "one of his best races" before retreating to scratch his head along with the rest of his team. McLaren's extra pace and Hakkinen's application had patently wrong-footed them.

Hakkinen, who goes testing at Magny-Cours this week, said a mite bashfully: "I don't exactly feel it was my best race. It's really weird and hard for me to understand what's going on at the moment. We haven't won it yet."

"At the end of the day it is still a sport. I can only give it my best shot. If I lose I lose; if I win I win. To be a good winner you have to learn to lose."

"It doesn't matter when you win, as long as you get your goal."

That's a kind of magic.



Hakkinen says: "It's really weird and hard for me to understand what's going on at the moment. We haven't won it yet"

Allsport

HOW THE TOP TWO FOUGHT THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE F1 CHAMPIONSHIP CLIMAX

AUSTRALIA, 8 MARCH

Hakkinen 1st (10pts)

Schumacher did not finish (0)

Controversy began with the first race of the season when David Coulthard handed the race to team-mate Mika Hakkinen after the two men forged a prior agreement that the driver leading at the first corner should be granted victory by the other. Schumacher pulled out with engine failure.

BRAZIL, 29 MARCH

Hakkinen 1st (20)

Schumacher 3rd (4)

Hakkinen stormed to victory from lights to flag. McLaren's dominance of the championship seemed beyond dispute as he and second-placed Coulthard lapped everyone but the top four. Schumacher was well off the pace in ninth.

ARGENTINA, 12 APRIL

Hakkinen 1st (26)

Schumacher 10th (14)

Hakkinen gets his first win with a brilliant drive and two-stop refuelling strategy. The first sign of animosity comes when Coulthard bumps Schumacher as he goes for an overtaking manoeuvre.

SAN MARINO, 27 APR

Hakkinen did not finish (26)

Schumacher 2nd (20)

Hakkinen is forced out with gearbox failure after 13 laps but his team-mate Coulthard keeps Schumacher off the top of the podium with a faultless drive. Schumacher takes the runners-up spot.

SPAIN, 10 MAY

Hakkinen 1st (36)

Schumacher 3rd (24)

There seems no rivalling Hakkinen when he stays clear of car trouble. This time he destroys the challenge of both team-mate David Coulthard, in second, and Schumacher, who finishes 47 seconds behind the winner.

MONACO, 24 MAY

Hakkinen 1st (46)

Schumacher 10th (24)

Hakkinen wins his first Monaco Grand Prix, and opens up a 22-point gap over Schumacher, who could only finish in 10th place after an uncharacteristic mistake in overtaking led to him damaging his car.

CANADA, JUNE 7

Hakkinen did not finish (46)

Schumacher 1st (34)

Schumacher wins an exciting "demolition derby" of a race though Williams complains officially about his collision with their driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen. Hakkinen and Coulthard pull out with gearbox and throttle problems respectively.

FRANCE, 28 JUNE

Hakkinen 3rd (50)

Schumacher 1st (44)

Another McLaren-Mercedes slaughter. Hakkinen stays clear of trouble to notch his third win of the year. Eddie Irvine, who leads the points battle, and Mika Hakkinen confirmed Ferrari's growing competitiveness with second place.

BRITAIN, 12 JULY

Hakkinen did not finish (56)

Schumacher 1st (54)

Schumacher throws the title race open with his third triumph in a row. The German only learns he has won while he is sitting in the pit lane undergoing a 10-second stop-go penalty for overtaking under yellow flags. A fruitless protest follows.

AUSTRIA, 26 JULY

Hakkinen 1st (66)

Schumacher 3rd (58)

The future surrounding the British Grand Prix rumbles on with McLaren claiming Schumacher should not have been awarded the race. But the McLaren team find some comfort by dominating in Austria, with Schumacher finishing third.

ITALY, 13 SEPT

Hakkinen 4th (80)

Schumacher 1st (80)

A magnificent triumph for Schumacher and Ferrari on their "home" ground. The hero carries on to clinch the title. It seems over at the stage with Hakkinen extending his lead to 16 points and looking immensely strong.

HUNGARY, 16 AUGUST

Hakkinen 6th (77)

Schumacher 1st (70)

Suddenly in this topsy-turvy season the impetus switches again with Schumacher giving a supreme performance while Hakkinen's car limps home in eighth after a shock absorber failure.

BELGIUM, 30 AUGUST

Hakkinen did not finish (77)

Schumacher did not finish (70)

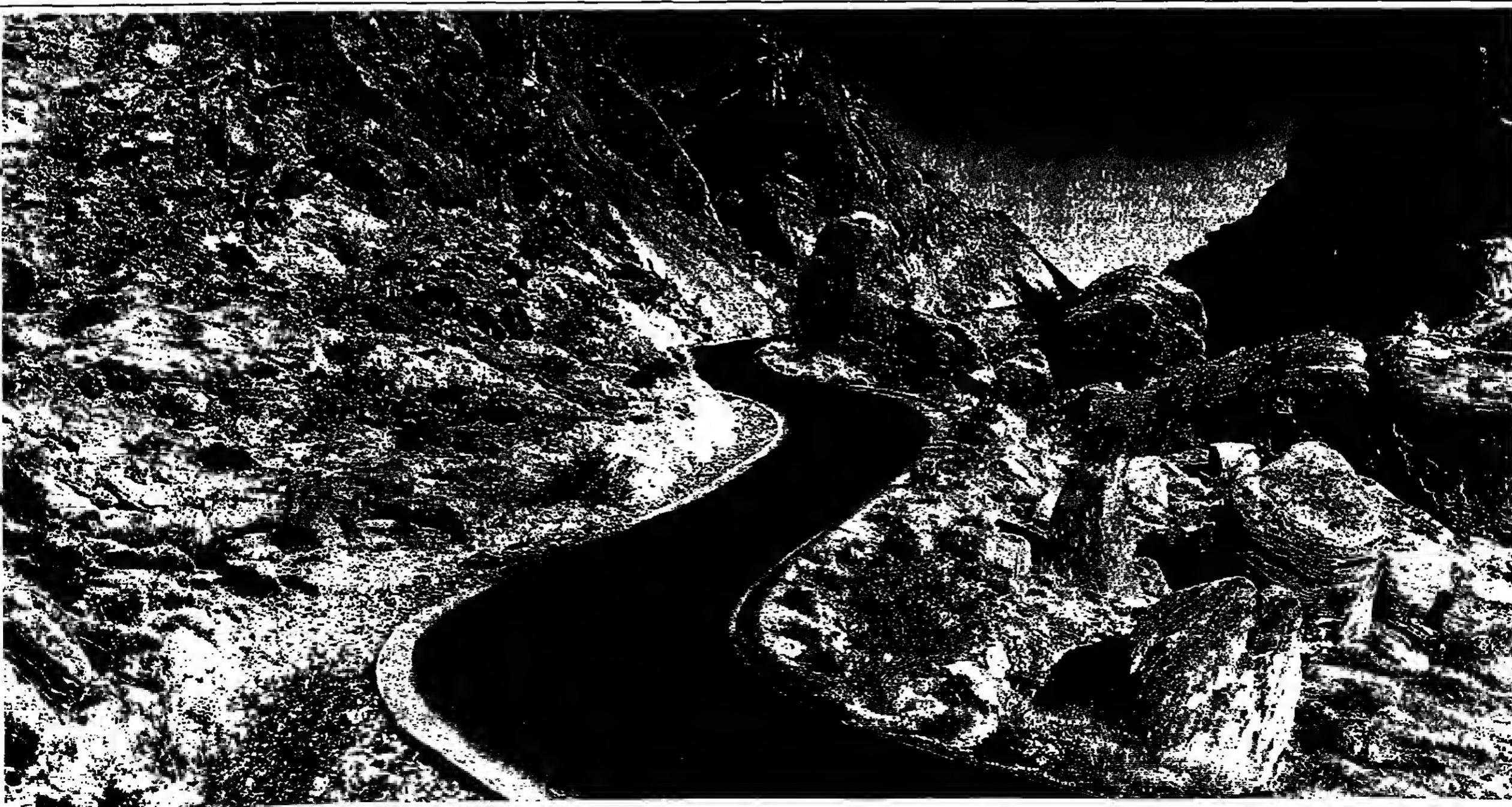
The most explosive grand prix of the lot as Coulthard and Schumacher collide and the German driver accuses his McLaren opponent of trying to kill him. Neither Schumacher nor Hakkinen score points as Damon Hill wins for Jordan.

LUXEMBOURG, 27 SEPT

Hakkinen 1st (90)

Schumacher 2nd (86)

This time Hakkinen is back in the ascendancy and it looks like Schumacher can do nothing to stop him. The Finn's victory is tense rather than spectacular, but it gives him a clear four-point advantage going into the last race.



TO EXPERIENCE THE DRIVE OF THE PEUGEOT 406, SIMPLY RUN YOUR FINGERS OVER THIS STRETCH OF ROAD.

PEUGEOT

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

Supply And Demand much sought after

THE BEST backed horse yesterday for Saturday's Cambridgeshire with Coral was Supply And Demand, who was cut to 9-1 from 16-1. The firm's spokesman, Simon Clare, said: "From the moment we opened this morning, Supply And Demand was the only horse our customers wanted to back. We cut it from 16-1 to 12-1 in the first half an hour of trading, then to 10-1 and finally to 9-1."

"If Duke doesn't run, Kieren Fallon will ride and Supply And Demand will start favourite." However, a spokeswoman for Dokos's trainer, Henry Cecil,

confirmed that their horse is on course for the race.

For Your Eyes Only will carry top weight of 9st 10lb in the race, for which 47 horses were confirmed at yesterday's five-day stage.

Tim Easterby, the horse's

said: "For Your Eyes is

in good form and carrying well,

Jason Weaver rides." The

winner of three good handicaps already this season when carrying blinkers, was without the headgear last time when he disappointed behind Great Dane in a Listed event at York.

ANTE-POST UPDATE

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP (1 to 11)

Horse (Name/weight)	Cost	Wt. Net	Lodging	Stable	Total
Penthouse (9s M Precock) (16s)	51	81	81	81	251
Palace (11s Cockle) (16s)	91	101	91	101	303
Supply And Demand (9s M Herdwick) (28s)	91	101	91	91	303
Silk St John (9s Pj Fyfield) (28s)	91	101	91	101	303
Almond Head (11s Fawcett) (28s)	91	101	91	101	303
For Your Eyes Only (11s Eddington) (28s)	201	201	201	201	201
Brilliant Head (Pj Hedge) (28s)	201	201	191	191	251
Consort (11s Pj Fyfield) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Heads Of States (J Redhead) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Prince Of My Heart (Dj Hayes) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Requiescent (9s M Herdwick) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Twinkie Price (C Wallington) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Almond Head (M Guy Kellaway) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Another Time (S Woodhead) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Golf Shanty (E Shattock) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
King Of Tunes (J Shattock) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Pewter (J Shattock) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Premier Generation (D Arthurs) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Present Arms (P Collett) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Patent Of Enclosure (16s)	301	301	301	301	301
Patent Of Enclosure (16s)	301	301	301	301	301
Secret Spring (P Herdwick) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
What A Minus (J Redhead) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
West Weston (S Woodhead) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
Shadley (R Chapman) (28s)	401	301	301	301	301
Chase Head (J Redhead) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
Lure Spur (S Woodhead) (28s)	401	301	301	301	301
Millets (A Teggan) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
Police Officer (J Redhead) (28s)	401	301	301	301	301
Rockside North (R Ambrony) (28s)	401	401	401	301	401
Shaded (R McKeown) (28s)	401	301	301	301	301
Spotted (R Chapman) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
Up The Top (P Herdwick) (28s)	301	301	301	301	301
Hymnon (P Fyfield) (28s)	201	401	401	401	501
EE (J Redhead) (28s)	401	401	401	401	501
All: Only 35 can run, each way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Plated), Saturday					

PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE (1 m to 41)

Horse (Name)	Cost	Wt. Net	Lodging	Stable	Total
High-Rise (L. Cawley) (28s)	51	41	92	92	92
Casco Range (P Herdwick) (28s)	51	61	61	61	61
Dunne Web (P Herdwick) (28s)	51	61	61	61	61
Sangria (A Fyfield) (28s)	41	61	61	61	61
Sam Weaver (M Herdwick) (28s)	61	61	61	61	61
Liquid (A Fyfield) (28s)	91	81	81	81	81
Daylight (M Herdwick) (28s)	101	—	—	—	—
Liquorice (L. Cawley) (28s)	101	—	—	—	—
Dragon (L. Cawley) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Fragrant (M. Herdwick) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Abundance (D Baldwin) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Ethereal (L. Cawley) (28s)	201	201	201	201	251
Katzen (R Chapman) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Katy (Mrs S. Herdwick) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Legger (L. Cawley) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Public Prince (A Fyfield) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Tiger (P. Herdwick) (28s)	201	—	—	—	—
Colours (A Schutte) (28s)	301	301	251	—	—
Flame (P Cheyne-Hayes) (28s)	301	301	—	—	—
Nose (A Fyfield) (28s)	301	301	—	—	—
Cloud Castle (C Baldwin) (28s)	301	301	—	—	—
Photos (P Herdwick) (28s)	301	—	—	—	—
Silver Polished (J Dunlop) (28s)	201	401	—	—	251
Ephesians (A Fyfield) (28s)	201	501	—	—	—
All: Only 40 run, each way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Plated), Saturday					

Evenly 4 quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Longchamp, Sunday)

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERON

1.45 Ballydavid 2.15 Auburn Boy 2.50

Nishamira 3.20 Supertop 3.55 Uncle Bert 4.30

Putlooper

GOING: Good to Firm.

Left-hand, no racing course. Easy fences and long run-in on

course of 500m.

Courses 1 fm SE of town near junction of A689 and A177. Bus

service from Stockton station (8min) or Durham station (20min).

ADMISSION: Paddocks £3 (OAPs £2); Course £2; CAR PARK:

£10; Refreshments £2.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs Novey — 57 winners from 222

races gives a success ratio of 25.7%; G M Moore 18 from 103

(18.2%); J. Johnson 15 from 142 (10.6%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 43 wins from 211 rides gives a

success ratio of 20.7%; G Lee 17 from 77 (22.1%); L Wyer 15

(20.0%); B Elliston 17 from 106 (18.9%); A Dobbin 14 from 137 (10.4%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.15 SATLEY PUNCH BOWL CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 2m 21'

1. PUSHP DESERT FIGHTER (14) Mr M Novey 7 11 8 — P Niven

2. 365-B BROADBRAKE FLYER (12) Mr M Moore 4 11 — J. Johnson

3. 080-5 SILVER CREEK (10) Mr V Thompson 4 8 Mr M Thompson

4. 504-0 DORINGTON TIMES (10) Mr M Moore 4 10 C. Thompson

5. 343-5 CUT ON A PROMISE (8) Mr L. Ellington 4 10 — R. Dobbin

6. 000-5 WHITEHORN'S SON (7) Mr M Moore 4 10 — R. Dobbin

7. 000-5 AMBER ROCK (7) Mr M Moore 4 10 — R. Dobbin

8. 000-5 OLD HUSH WING (6) Mr M Moore 5 10 J. Johnson

9. P-P-P REAL FIRE (5) Mr M Moore 5 10 A. P. McCoy

10. 400-P PERFECT VIEW (5) Mr M Moore 5 10 — R. Dobbin

11. P-P-P TEMPTED (4) Mr M Moore 5 10 — D. Parker V

— 11 declined —

BETTING: 2-1 Out On A Promise, 3-2 Old Hush Wing, 3-2 Auburn Boy, 5-1 Desert Fighter, 5-1 Whitehorn's Son, 20-1 others

FD RM VERDICT

Despite the drop back to 2m1f OLD HUSH WING can be expected to go very well in what is pretty competitive claiming handings. The selection goes well here, is well weighted and comes from a stable in good form.

2.50 JOHN HELLENS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5'

1. 216-M MR CAVALLO (6) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

2. 1P7C CLASSIC CONTACT (6) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

3. 5425-A RUSTY ANGEL (6) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

4. 32P5- RUSTY ANGEL (6) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

5. 00005 PANOCHEE (5) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

6. 00005 WHALEY (5) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

7. 00005 TUDOR FELLOW (5) Mr M Moore 8 20 — R. Dobbin

8. 00005 SNYLINX (5) Mr M Moore 8 20 — C. Lee

— 8 declined —

BETTING: 2-1 Rusty Angel, 4-1 Henry Helle, 5-2 Mr Cavallo, 6-1 Highland View, 10-1 Soussou, 10-1 Tudor Fellow, 20

McRae leaves job with Britain

THE ST HELENS coach, Shaun McRae, has left his other job as assistant to Andy Goodway with the Great Britain team little more than a month before the Test series against New Zealand.

McRae, who becomes the coach of the new Gateshead team after the end of this season, feels that he needs to devote more time to that and will not be able to concentrate on helping Goodway and his squad prepare to face the Kiwis.

"I can't see me being able to be in camp for three weeks," he said. "The new franchise is obviously going to take up a lot of my time so it is better to make a clean break now."

McRae, who has filled a similar role with Australian and New Zealand teams, says there has been no fall-out between him and Goodway. "Andy is pretty upset about it, but he understands my position," he said.

The technical director of the Rugby League, Joe Lydon, said, "Shaun's contribution has been invaluable, but we appreciate that he has other commitments." There are no plans to bring in a replacement before the series begins.

McRae is concerned about one of his signings for Gateshead, the Canterbury second-rower Tony Grimaldi, who had an outstanding game in their defeat by the Brisbane Broncos in the Australian Grand Final but had to go off with a serious shoulder injury.

Meanwhile, a former Great Britain international is appealing to Goodway not to forget about him for the forthcoming series. Lee Jackson was unveiled as a Leeds player yesterday and said that he still hoped to make the Test squad, despite not having been able to play for his new club until next year because Sheffield Eagles still hold his registration.

The Leeds coach, Graham Murray, said that Jackson, who has been playing for the Newcastle Knights in Australia, will be his first-choice hooker next season.

St Helens hope to confirm the signing of Kevin Iro. The for-

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

men Wigan centre, who has been playing for the Auckland Warriors in his native New Zealand, has been lined up as the first major signing under the Ellery Hanley regime at Knowsley Road.

To say that he has signed or is about to sign would be premature, but he is certainly one that Ellery admires," Saints' football manager, Eric Hughes, said.

One player on the way out of Knowsley Road is Karle Hammond, who has agreed a two-year deal with London Broncos.

The 24-year-old has been out of contract at St Helens and was a target for several clubs.

The Broncos' chief executive, Tony Rea, said: "Karle is an exceptionally talented player. His signing is a real coup for the club."

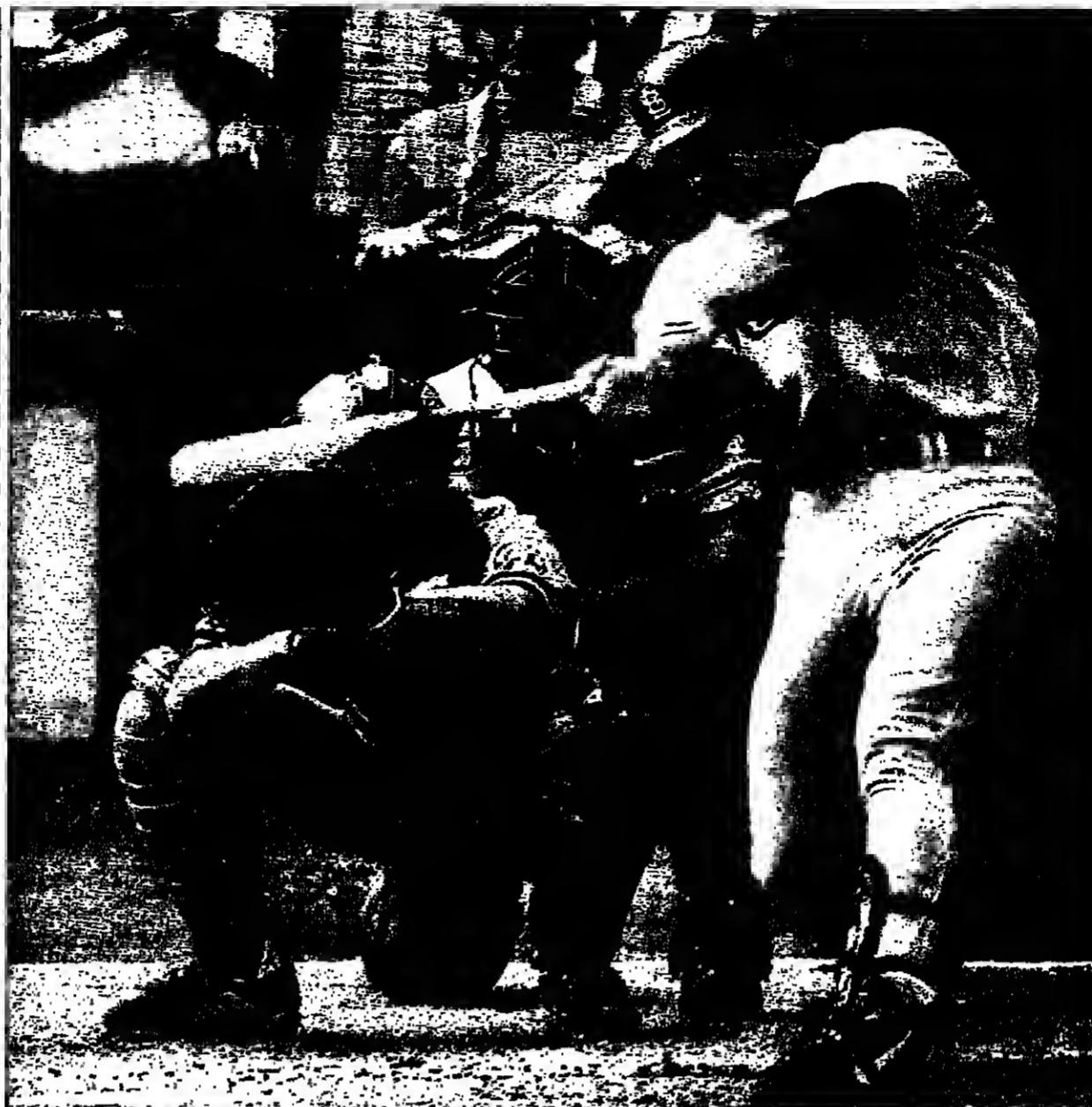
Steve Simms' reward for taking Featherstone so close to the First Division championship is likely to be the offer of a pay cut to stay on.

"We've the highest regard for him, but it is a matter of what we can afford," the Featherstone director, Steve Wagner, said. "If we can agree terms with him, I think he will stay, but it's fair to say that we won't be able to offer him what he's getting now."

Featherstone, along with the First Division Grand Final winners, Wakefield Trinity, and the Second Division champions, Lancashire Lynx, go to France this weekend for the first leg of the Treize Tournoi.

Wakefield play a Villeneuve side that should include the Australian Test forward, Paul Fironen, whilst Featherstone take on Limoux and Lancashire Lynx to St Esteve.

Wakefield are well advanced with ground plans which they believe will qualify them for Super League membership next season. They intend to install temporary seating at Belle Vue to bring it up to the required capacity before moving to a new ground at Ossett for 2000.



Mark McGwire hits his 70th home run for the Cardinals against Montreal Expos in St Louis on Sunday AP

Eagles face stern test at Bracknell

AYE SCOTTISH Eagles face their toughest test yet in the defence of the Benson and Hedges Cup after being drawn against Bracknell Bees in the quarter-finals.

Eagles' only defeat in six round-robin group matches came from the Bees, who recorded a 5-1 home win over the Grand Slam winners - and beat them to top spot in the table.

Although Ayr recognise any tie will be difficult, their 25-year-old Canadian forward Karry Bietsch admitted that Bracknell was probably the worst draw they could have had. "If you had to pick one it would be Bracknell because of what they did to us in the round-robin," he said.

"We did not fare too well in their rink but beat them at home. Bracknell have changed quite a lot and they seem to be getting together early in the season. It will be a good battle."

The London Knights coach, Jim Fyarchuk, who saw his men pick up their first wins

ICE HOCKEY
BY STUART WALLACE

against the Guildford Flames at the weekend, was relishing meeting Cardiff Devils.

"Cardiff look - as they have been in the past - really tough, really competitive," Fyarchuk said. "There is no doubt we are going to have our hands full."

Newcastle Riverings pair Blake Knox and Jim Mathieson face their former club, Nottingham Panthers.

In the other quarter-final, Group B winners Manchester Storm meet Sheffield Steelers.

Little separated the pair in the round-robin matches, one game ending in a draw while Storm nicked the other by one goal. A close tie is expected again.

RENNISON AND HEDGES CUP Quarter-finalists Cardiff Devils v London Knights; Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles; Manchester Storm v Nottingham Panthers; Newcastle Riverings v Sheffield Steelers.

Group B Plate Quarter-finalists Edinburgh Capitals v Guildford Flames; Kingston Hawks v Fife Flyers v Peterborough Petes; Paisley Pirates v Slough Jets.

Vintage Young eclipses youth

THE 1998 American football season promised to be one dominated by the exploits of a new breed of exciting young quarterbacks. Instead, a month into the current campaign, the old guard are holding firm with a vengeance.

Steve Young, the San Francisco 49ers' inappropriately named playmaker, will celebrate his 37th birthday in a matter of days, but just like Denver's John Elway, Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins and the Seattle Seahawks' Warren Moon, he shows no signs of slowing down.

On Sunday, Young tore the Atlanta Falcons to pieces, the 49ers winning 31-20, a scoreline that masks the fact that the 49ers scored on their first five possessions and simply looked in a different class to their previously unbeaten rivals.

Young completed 23 of his 39 pass attempts for 327 yards and three touchdowns, and could have had a lot more if the 49ers elected to press home their superiority in the second half.

In three games to date this

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
BY NICK HALLING

season, Young has thrown for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns each time, the first such streak of his 14-year career. At this rate, he will surpass the numbers he achieved in 1992, when he was named the league's most valuable player.

"I can't imagine ever being more comfortable than I was in 1992, but over the years you do get smarter," he said. "You have a much better handle on the full orchestra, the trombones, everything."

A naturally modest man, Young is not the type to blow his own trumpet, yet the fact that San Francisco have generated more than 500 yards of offense every game this season is a tribute to his mastery of the game.

He is also assisted by Jerry Rice, the greatest receiver ever to play the game. Last season, Rice's career hung in the balance as he shattered his right

knee in the first game of the campaign, only to rush his return and fracture the same kneecap.

Now, after a summer of rehabilitation, the only man in history to catch 1,000 passes looks close to his best. On Sunday, he was simply too good for the Falcons, catching touchdown passes of 66 and 26 yards from Young. The two have combined for a total of 78 touchdowns, one short of the record held by

Marino and Mark Clayton, the prolific partnership who thrived in Miami for much of the 1980s.

A hamstring injury has slowed John Elway over the past two weeks, so he decided to sit it out as his Denver Broncos visited the hapless Washington Redskins. It proved to be

the correct decision, his replacement, Bubby Brister, throwing two touchdowns, and the running back Terrell Davis gaining 119 yards on the ground as the Broncos prevailed 38-16.

If San Francisco and Denver are to be the best of the bunch after the early skirmishes, the Green Bay Packers cannot be dis-

BASEBALL

play-off late last night will count in his regular-season total but four is a tall order, especially for a player more concerned with getting his team into the post-season. However, Sosa's presence has made McGwire's drive for Maris' record all the more compelling.

McGwire said: "I'm glad I've been associated with Sammy Sosa. It's been a great year for everyone. I'm absolutely exhausted. I don't think you can use your mind any more playing baseball. I've amazed myself that I've stayed in a tunnel for so long. It just proves to me I can overcome anything with the strength of my mind."

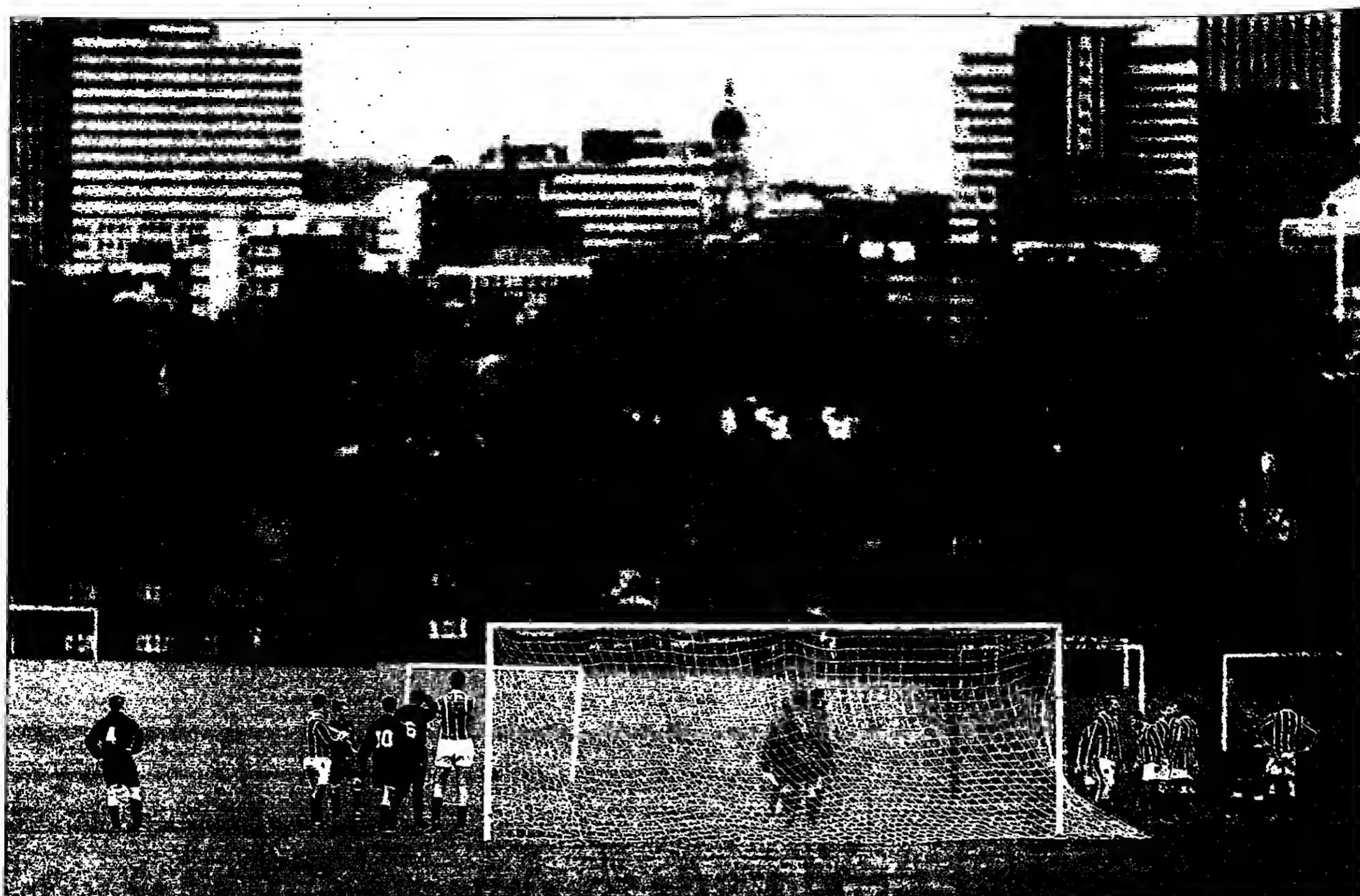
Meanwhile, Bernie Williams, Larry Walker and Greg Vaughn also managed breakthroughs in a season dominated by McGwire.

Williams won his first American League batting title on Sunday, going 2-for-2 in another historic New York Yankees win. He finished at .339, two points higher than Boston's Mo Vaughn, but the lowest average for an AL champion since George Brett hit .329 in 1990.

Walker also won his first batting prize, going 2-for-4 for Colorado to wind up at .363, nine points ahead of John Olerud, of the New York Mets.



PEUGEOT
THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE



A typical weekend scene in a Croydon park. In the 1996-97 season, there were 293 proven cases of assaults on referees, according to the FA disciplinary unit

Peter Jay

Fear that haunts park referees

For the men in black of the local leagues, far away from the crowds and the television cameras, violence from players happens all too often. By Nick Harris

WHILE PAOLO Di Canio's assault on the referee, Paul Alcock, on Saturday was being captured on television cameras (ensuring, in theory, that the Italian will be properly punished), thousands of officials up and down the country were risking the unrecorded wrath of players who took a dislike to their decisions.

Although some representatives from the country's local leagues said yesterday that the game is no more violent than in the past, more voiced concerns for the safety of their officials.

"It's alarming," said Jim Parker, the discipline officer at the Lancashire Football Association. "Assaults are definitely going up."

Last season, he said, there were 15 proven cases in his county. This season seven assaults are already under investigation and new cases are happening each week. Football has always had a problem with referee recruitment, he added, but now the problem is intensifying.

"There's a real shortage in the North-west," he said. "People

are getting sick of the intimidation."

It is not hard to find referees for whom abuse has been more than verbal. Phil Morris, an former referee with the Manchester County FA, was assaulted four years ago. His experience in the Unibond League, the Pontins League and the Football Conference did not help him on the Sunday morning he was attacked while in charge of a local league game.

"I'd cautioned a player for an offence," he said, "and the next minute - wallop! It wasn't a push, it was a crack in the face. I ended up with a broken tooth and a swollen nose. I abandoned the game."

The FA took charge of matters and the player was suspended for four months.

"It didn't change my attitude," he added, although he retired from the game the following year. "We are losing far too many local league ref-

erees through indiscipline [against them]," Morris added. "It's a lot easier the further up the ladder you go."

The Manchester County FA recorded 42 assaults against referees last year, a figure that must lead some to question whether the endeavour is worth the rewards. Local league officials receive £12 per game, rising to £22 per match.

Knocking the referee's book from his hands to man-

ning for a Grade A assault, to a *sine die* suspension and £200 fine (with no appeal for five years) for a Grade B offence, to permanent suspension from all football for a Grade C misdemeanour.

To give an indication of how

serious even the more minor of

fences can be, an FA

spokesman said that Paolo

Di Canio's shove on Paul Al-

cock would not even count as

a Grade A assault. The

spokesman added, however,

that the 293 proven assaults

in 1996-97 showed just "a

very small percentage" of in-

cidents from all football

matches around the country.

The FA figures would include

some 1 million-plus games in-

volving 44,000 clubs. "But one

assault is too many," said the

spokesman. "We don't want

people to touch referees. They

should be sacrosanct."

David Fowkes, of the London

FA, an area in which assaults

have dropped from 39 two seasons ago to 17 last season, believes the problem should not be blown out of proportion. "I'm anxious we don't create a wave of terror," he said. He added, however: "We've had referees badly hurt. Punched, knocked out, lost a couple of teeth. It's very rare, so I don't want people to think it goes on all the time."

The main difference for local league referees, says Fowkes, is that the official does not have the kind of support network offered by television cameras and a crowd, who might sometimes act as witnesses.

"The referee is out there on his own," he said.

Barry Rowland, a referee in the area under Fowkes' jurisdiction, found himself in such a situation last year: "I was doing a Saturday afternoon game in the Wimborne and District League," he said. "It was a cup game and a bit fiery. I'd allowed

one side to score a goal from a

penalty and the other side to

score a goal from a free kick.

"I was in the middle of the

pitch when a player from one

side came up to me and said,

'You're not a referee, you're

an idiot, you're not qualified.'

"I told him, 'I'm not qualified'

and he said, 'I'll punch you in the face.'

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Music
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Gregory wants recognition for Villa

JOHN GREGORY neatly encapsulated the hiding-to-nothing nature of Aston Villa's unfinished Uefa Cup business against Stromsgodset in Norway tonight. "We'll make the headlines if we slip up," the Villa manager said after arriving with a 3-2 lead. "If we win, it'll be a little report tucked away on page 22."

Gregory's comments also reflected a feeling that is shared by his chairman, Doug Ellis, that Villa have not received adequate recognition for their achievement in establishing a

BY PHIL SHAW
in Oslo

cede that their largely part-time hosts were unlucky to lose.

"We were very fortunate to come out of the match at Villa Park winning," he said. "Beforehand I had visions of it being 0-0 after an hour, and I felt we might wear them down with superior fitness in the last 30 minutes. As it was, they held up remarkably well."

Gregory's natural openness, which has led him to encourage fans to attend what were once strictly private training sessions, extends to every aspect of his management style except

his attitude to defending. Villa have shut out the opposition in six of their eight fixtures and start the second leg in the port of Drammen, 30 miles from Oslo, knowing that another clean sheet would guarantee progress to the second round.

"I can't ever remember sending a side out intentionally draw 0-0. I think we'd find that very difficult," Gregory said. "But we've got a mentality about us that we mustn't concede a goal. Although it won't be safety-first football, we'll have that in the back of our minds."

Collymore starts a match for only the second time this season, replacing the ineligible Paul Merson. He launched his comeback as a late substitute in Saturday's 1-0 win over Derby County and Gregory said: "The fact Stan has only played four minutes is not a problem. He has shown the right attitude in training and has worked very hard to regain his fitness."

Simon Grayson deputises for Barry, having come on for the young defender on Saturday's. The 17-year-old is likely

to be fit for the weekend visit to Coventry City, however.

The cramped confines of the Marienlyst Stadium, whose 6,000 capacity will be bolstered by temporary stands, hold no fears for Gregory, who was in charge of Wycombe until February. While expecting conditions to be reminiscent of Hednesford - where Villa play a testimonial match next Monday - he clucked in agreement when it was suggested that Collymore needed to be tricked into believing he was facing Liverpool.

That may be true of Villa in general. In the 18 League fixtures since Gregory succeeded Brian Little, only Barnsley and Bolton have beaten them. "And they were both relegated," Gregory said. "We're probably at our weakest when playing teams we're expected to beat."

Stromsgodset will advance if they win 1-0 or 2-1, and expect both their former Premiership players, Jostein Flo and Erlend Johnsen, to be fit after missing the game in Birmingham. Flo's aerial ability was critical when Norway twice embarrassed

Blackburn must beware danger from Dhorasoo

Lyons' Uefa Cup campaign is being inspired by 'the next Zidane'. By Adam Szreter

THE TASK facing Blackburn Rovers at the Stade Gerland in Lyons tonight is an unenviable one: Roy Hodgson's side have to beat a Lyons team who lie second in the French league and are unbeaten this season if they are to make progress in the Uefa Cup - a tournament in which Hodgson went all the way to the final with his previous club, Internazionale.

After a poor start in the League, Hodgson might have been forgiven for looking to Europe as a source of inspiration for some of his players, but in the first leg at Ewood Park they were made to pay for some profligate finishing by an efficient Lyons outfit and a wondrous strike at the death by the Polish international defender Jacek Bak - something Glenn Hoddle will have taken note of for later use in England's Euro 2000 qualifying campaign.

But, had it not been for an equally wondrous save by Tim Flowers, Blackburn might have been trailing long before that. The man Flowers denied was the Lyons playmaker, Vikash Dhorasoo, a talented 23-year-old who, since moving from Le Havre in the summer and making an impressive start with his new club, is being compared favourably with the incumbent No 10 in the French national side, Zinedine Zidane.

Dhorasoo, a Hindu who was born near Le Havre to parents who emigrated from Mauritius two years earlier, was voted the French player of the year by the sports paper *L'Equipe* in his last season with his home-town team, an achievement which attracted the attention not only of Lyons but several other clubs,

including one or two from the Premiership. "I don't want to say who, because I'm quite happy at Lyons," he said shortly after Friday evening's drab goalless draw at Nancy, which Lyons seemed to treat more as a training exercise for tonight's match than anything else.

If Dhorasoo had chosen to come to England, it certainly would have been popular with the people of Mauritius, who are fed a regular diet of English football through satellite tele-

The biggest fear we have for the second leg is ourselves. If we play well enough, we should get through'

vision. Dhorasoo's brothers and sisters were all born there, and he himself is a regular visitor on family holidays.

"They love English football, particularly Manchester United and Liverpool," Dhorasoo said. "They know about me and, although they like the French too, I think they would like me to play for an English club most of all."

"I also love English football but I don't know whether I'll ever play there. I like their style of play, the fighting spirit, the commitment and the culture of the public."



Vikash Dhorasoo: 'I love English football. I like their style of play, the fighting spirit, the commitment, and the culture of the public'

wards getting through. We knew all about Sutton, and Davies impressed us too, but I managed that first leg quite well.

"With the long ball out of defence that they use they will be a danger to us at home, but I think the biggest fear we have for the second leg is ourselves. If we play well enough we should get through, even though it won't be easy; but if we're not on top of our game it will be difficult."

Hasselbaink threatens to leave Leeds

BY IAN PARKES

Robbie Fowler is expected to continue his rehabilitation after his knee injury against Kosice at Anfield. Liverpool hold a 3-0 advantage from the first leg in Slovakia and seem assured of a place in the next round, but Fowler has his own targets to aim for.

"I know that, when I play a few more games and get the match sharpness I need, I will be a better player," he said. The Dutchman's shock declaration came on the eve of tonight's Uefa Cup first round second leg against Maritimo in Madeira - which is strongly rumoured to be Graham's last game in charge of the Elland Road club. It is believed that a compensation package of around £2.5m is being negotiated by the Leeds chairman, Peter Ridsdale, and Spurs' Alan Sugar to allow Graham to be installed at White Hart Lane by the end of the week.

Hasselbaink, whom Graham signed for £2m from the Portuguese side Boavista last year, said: "It will be a bad thing for me and for the team if George goes. He is very important to me, so I will be very sad if he leaves Leeds. If he does, it will make me think about my future and what to do because of what he means to me."

Graham, refusing to be drawn on the link with Spurs, is determined to guide Leeds into the second round of the Uefa Cup. His side hold a 1-0 lead from the first leg, and he said:

"It's a very important tie for Leeds. If we can put on a good performance and get the right result, then I will be delighted.

Even if it's a gritty performance, I will still be pleased."

Maritimo's Canadian international Alex Bunbury, the former West Ham forward, could be the Portuguese club's danger man. "We respect Leeds," he said, "but after holding them to a one-goal margin on their own pitch we are confident that we can pull off a really good result in the second leg."

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SPORT



VILLA'S NORWEGIAN MISSION P29 • HAKKINEN ON A HIGH P23

FA charge for angry Di Canio

PAOLO DI CANIO was yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association for pushing the referee Paul Alcock - with the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, calling for disciplinary officials to "chuck the book at him".

As expected, the FA announced the charge after being given Alcock's report into the incident, in which Di Canio shoved the official to the ground after being shown the red card during Sheffield Wednesday's Premiership match against Arsenal on Saturday.

Di Canio has 14 days to respond and request a personal hearing but, depending on the speed of his response, the FA could bring forward a disciplinary hearing.

Whatever Di Canio's response is, the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor, expects him to sever his links with Wednesday.

Banks said: "This was an incident too far. All of us involved in football, whether as supporters or players, have shouted at the referee as passions run high. But you cannot assault the referee. There has to

be a limit - the referee stands between us and chaos, and this was totally unacceptable."

"This is a matter for the FA, and I think they should chuck the book at him," Banks added. "This is so serious that an example has to be made of the player."

Taylor said: "I think there is a problem with him at the club and I think we might see a parting of the ways. He had a particularly bad week, probably a problem with his manager, doubts about whether he would play, and I suppose it capped a dreadful week for him."

The FA's statement read: "The player has 14 days to respond and request a personal hearing. Dependent on the player's response, the FA will seek to put the case before a disciplinary commission at the earliest opportunity. In doing so, we will also welcome the actions of Sheffield Wednesday in suspending the player pending that hearing."

Di Canio, who has flown home to Italy with his club's permission, accused Alcock of over-reacting. He said: "I gave him a shove, but it was hardly done with much force. He took three or four sideways steps before falling over in rather a strange way - like someone diving to win a penalty."

"In fact, it was so odd he would probably have been given a yellow card if he had been a player. To me, it looked like someone who was acting

The referees' spokesman, David Elleray, said: "It is extraordinary that Di Canio is making these claims, because I cannot imagine any referee doing anything like that."

"It is quite clear that the one thing Paul was trying not to do was fall down because he wanted to preserve his dignity. He has no reason to go down because it is a very undignified thing to happen."

Elleray has urged the FA to take the strongest possible sanctions against the player if only for the sake of the thousands of referees who officiate on park pitches every weekend. "I think people regret the way that standards of behaviour have fallen, and one accepts the occasional verbal outbursts - but striking a referee crosses the line, and we do not want it to become part of a trend," he said. "I have not heard one person offer one word of defence for Di Canio's action. Everyone agrees that what has happened is wrong and we await the FA's verdict with interest. I'm sure they will take the appropriate action."

The Arsenal defender Martin Keown is to appeal against the red card he received in the same incident - and he has received support from Taylor.

"I feel quite sorry for Keown, who was looking to prevent Di Canio from approaching Patrick Vieira," the PFA chief executive said. "As a result of acting as a peacemaker, he's also been sent off."

Keown said: "Despite more than a little provocation I managed to control my temper and I was genuinely shocked to be shown a red card. I sincerely hope that when the match officials have had time to reflect on the incident they will take different perspective and exonerate me from blame."

David Pleat on the Di Canio the wanderer; Where referees are used to assaults, page 28



Harford resigns as QPR manager

BY ALAN NIXON

RAY HARFORD yesterday resigned as manager of troubled Queen's Park Rangers and brought his unhappy reign to an end within a year.

Harford left after thinking over his future at the weekend following a thumping 4-1 defeat at Oxford United.

Coach at Blackburn Rovers when they won the title, Harford has had considerable problems at Rangers where he feels that he has been denied transfer funds. The signing of Vinnie Jones was made over his head and lately the fans have turned against the manager and his struggling team. A compensation figure has yet to be agreed, but rather than wait to haggle Harford has decided to leave.

Harford's chance of being given an escape route to Newcastle United disappeared when Kenny Dalglish was sacked a month ago.

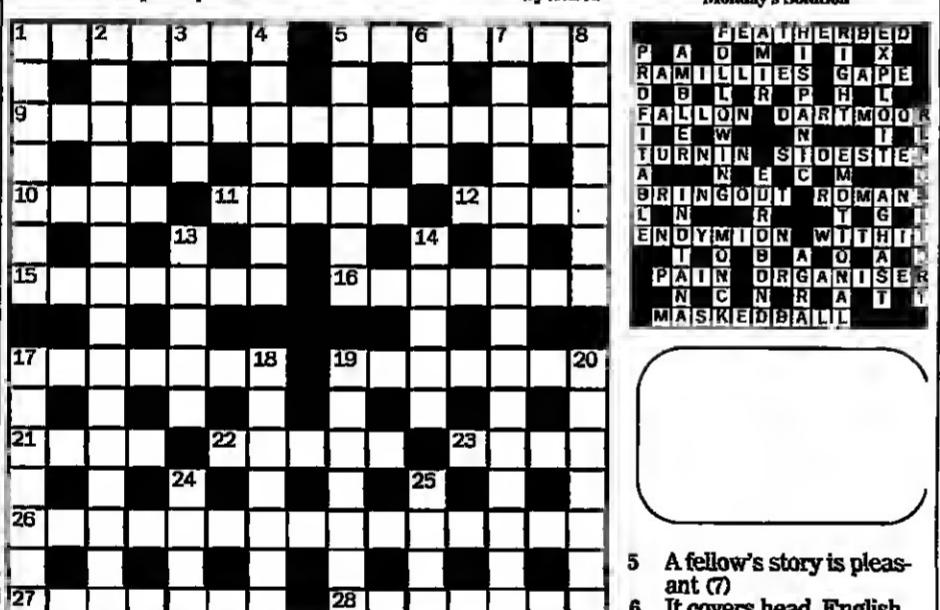
Harford, who left West Bromwich Albion in the middle of last season to join the QPR, has achieved only one victory with the Loftus Road side in nine games this season. The club, second from bottom in the First Division, have appointed Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland international striker, as caretaker manager. A statement from the club said: "Ray felt at this difficult time it was in the club's best interests he should step down."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3728, Tuesday 29 September

By Alfred

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Make photo change? (7)
 - Acid about saint being self-denying? (7)
 - Metaphors of people referred to in oratory? (7,2,6)
 - A B C D F or G? (4)
 - Mark spoke of having to buy a cat? (5)
 - Order graduate to send back bullets? (4)
 - Wrongly I bet Deb this would go out? (3,4)
 - In French i/4 hold one's attention? (7)
 - Revolutionary source of cigar? (7)
 - Reportedly making water-tight what is above you? (7)
 - A method of getting off (4)
 - DOWN**
 - Remove barriers perhaps in preparation to repel attack? (7)
 - Overgreat lamb we cooked - it's eaten at table? (9,6)
 - A hit normal, ordinary? Not him! (4)
 - Maybe the time for succeeding in ally? (7)

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Tuesday 29 September 1998

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Pittsburgh's Kordell Stewart, tries to get his pass away as Seattle's Philip Daniels (right) arrives to make the tackle. Pittsburgh won 13-10 in front of their home fans on Monday night

Old guard hold firm, page 27/AP

HOPE THIS REF'S NOT A PUSHOVER

Liverpool v FC Kosice. UEFA Cup. Live tonight only on Channel 5 from 7.30pm.

5

Sept 10 1998

INSIDE

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Hollywood stole my life

The *Truman Show*, the latest Hollywood vehicle for the comic comedian Jim Carrey, hits British cinema screens next week. A thoughtful contemplation of the hegemony of television over all of our lives, it is, at its simplest, a story about the exploitation of a hapless Everyman by a ruthless media corporation. It makes for good fiction. But behind this film another, real-life tale of exploitation may be lurking.

Meet Mark Dunn, a soft-spoken researcher in the rare books department of the New York Public Library, who believes that the movie, one of this summer's big blockbusters in the United States, takes its central idea from a play that he wrote back in 1992. So certain is Mr Dunn that credit for the original idea should be his, that he is suing Paramount Pictures and the creators of the film for \$200m.

It is hardly the first time that a studio has been hit with such a lawsuit. Just ask the makers of *The Full Monty* about their legal battle with two New Zealand playwrights who believe that their 1987 play *Ladies Night* was plagiarised for the unexpected British hit. Scores of such complaints have reached the courts only to founder. But few are as compelling at first glance, as the one being pursued by the benighted Mr Dunn.

"It's not my contention that they just took the premiss," remarks Dunn, 41, who works in the library to make ends meet while he struggles to reach the big time as a playwright. "It's that they heavily borrowed from the entire play, including the plot, characters, theme, and a lot of scenes. It makes me feel like nobody's safe from being taken advantage of."

To be sure, *The Truman Show* is not your standard, vacuous Hollywood fare. Without giving too much away, we can reveal that it depicts the life of Truman, played by Carrey, who finds himself trapped unwillingly in the twilight world

BY DAVID USBORNE

of a sound set. As an orphan, Truman is cast as a character in a round-the-clock soap opera that is broadcast to hungry viewers across America. Truman's life is thus a television confection – his friends, even his wife, are actors and everyone he meets are extras – but he does not know it. Until he finds out.

The film drew huge applause from critics, who noted not only Carrey's funny and deeply poignant performance, but also the wider issues it raises about our television-saturated society. At its strongest, the film explores our shared paranoia about the authenticity of our lives, and about our increasing taste for cheap voyeurism through the TV screen as well as our worship of the god that is electronic media.

The amusement is not shared by Dunn, however. Seven years ago, he wrote a play called *Frank's Life*. Just as with *The Truman Show*, the play's title doubled as the title of a television show in which the main protagonist unknowingly leads a life that is turned into a soap opera for network viewers. The play ran for three months in an off-Broadway theatre in 1992 and garnered some good reviews.

Indeed, in the lawsuit filed in a Manhattan court earlier this summer, Dunn and his lawyer highlight some 110 points of overlap between *The Truman Show* and *Frank's Life*. Other defendants in the suit include the screenwriter for the movie, Andrew Niccol, and its producer – one of Hollywood's most successful – Scott Rudin.

It is not just that both projects are about innocents who discover that their entire lives have been TV shows. Common to both is a shared best friend character with whom the protagonist of each drinks beers and shares his woes; a character who rebels and decides he can no longer carry the deception; a bland and bitchy wife; and a mean producer who executes the whole project, played in the film by a cold-eyed Ed Harris.

It was back in 1995 that wind of Paramount's treatment first reached Dunn. Lawyers, however, told him that he would have to wait until the film's release before taking any action. Early this spring, he and his wife first saw posters for *The Truman Show* in its local cinema in New York. "It was like someone punched me in the stomach," he says now. "That's when I knew it was going to be a difficult summer."

Finally the film came out and Dunn, bracing himself for the anger he would feel, joined the long queues and bought his ticket. With his wife by his side in the darkened cinema, he scribbled all the similarities with his own work in a small notebook. His notes will form the basis of his court action. Representing Dunn is a lawyer, Carl Person, who already has experience of taking on the studios. He couldn't resist the case, saying it was "the best I have ever seen". Person acknowledges that such cases are hard to win. "There is no real protection for ideas at all. Copyright is difficult to enforce, so people who infringe it do it with impunity. And it's profitable to do so, because it's difficult to prove."

To triumph over the legal might of the studios, a plaintiff, under standards laid down in the late Seventies, must demonstrate "striking similarities between the works", including "arc of character" and the location of the story. Person is adamant, however, that the mirroring between



TRUMAN HOUSE

Struggling writer Mark Dunn got a shock when he saw a preview of the new Jim Carrey movie, due here next week. *The Truman Show* was uncomfortably close to a script he'd failed to sell to Paramount Studios. So far, so Hollywood. Except in this case, he has an off-Broadway play and a cast of witnesses to prove it. And with \$200m at stake, he's not about to change his story

the film and Dunn's play is so remarkable that winning this case should be a cakewalk.

One who supports Dunn's complaint is a New York theatre critic, Susan Shapiro, who gave a rave review to *Frank's Life* when it opened in 1992. On seeing the film this summer, she assumed that Dunn had successfully sold his idea to Paramount and immediately telephoned him to offer her congratulations. "This is such an idiosyncratic, bizarre story," she said. "I saw the trailer for the movie and turned to my husband and said, 'I saw this as a play'."

Shapiro offered her own thoughts on what happened to Dunn to the *Los Angeles Times* recently, and she points that TriStar Pictures was obliged

to pay out a seven-figure sum to the family of a lawyer, Geoffrey Bowers, after acknowledging that his story as a man dying from AIDS in a leading law firm formed the basis of the Tom Hanks film, *Philadelphia*. The producer of that film was none other than Rudin.

In turns out, in fact, that Rudin was invited by Dunn to see his play when it was playing in New York. Whether he or any of his associates in fact went along, nobody can be sure, however. But Person insists that Rudin had ample opportunity to become aware of *Frank's Life* and its unusual theme, either by seeing it himself, hearing of it from others or reading any of the

positive reviews. As a result of those reviews, moreover, Dunn received calls from Hollywood producers who were interested in turning it into a film. Among the studios to which he sent the play for consideration was Paramount itself, in the summer of 1992. It was turned down by Paramount and also by Twentieth Century Fox.

The case, if and when it comes to court, will turn on matters of timing. While nobody associated with the film has commented on the case directly, it appears that the defence will rest on the claim that the screenwriter, Niccol, first submitted his original treatment for the film, at that time called *The Malcolm Show*, to his then agent in May 1991.

A synopsis of that treatment, obtained by *Daily Variety*, said: "Malcolm is the star of a 24-hour continuous soap opera in the future but doesn't know it. He has been filmed by hidden cameras every second of his life. The show has 16 producers, all his family and friends are actors – all the strangers that he sees in the street are extras."

Rudin had reportedly threatened meanwhile to countersue if Dunn persists with his own complaint. Paranoia about the risk of plagiarism suits has haunted the Hollywood studios. Producers have taken to protecting themselves by open-

ing submissions only from people they either know already or have been told about by agents. By simply not opening the envelopes of unsolicited story ideas, they hope to shield themselves from future assaults from people such as Dunn. The studios fear that such suits have become a cottage industry, the cost of which could quickly run into millions of dollars. "I don't think there are as many ideas stolen as there are people suing," notes Richard Arlook, a literary agent in Beverly Hills.

Recent complaints that have made the headlines include the unsuccessful bid by the author Barbara Chase-Riboud to block the release of Steven Spielberg's *Amistad* last year, contending that it was largely lifted from a book she had written in 1989. Another writer, Stephen Kessler, asserted, also in vain, that parts of *Twister*, written by Michael Crichton, had come from one of his screenplays.

The \$200m cited in this case is no random sum. It is the least that *The Truman Show* is expected to harvest once it has circled the world. Dunn says that the story was 100 per cent his, and that 100 per cent of the revenues are due to him. If defeated in court, Paramount will have an embarrassing bust on its hands. Mark Dunn, however, will finally have made it – if not in quite the way he would have wanted.

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MEDIA

German lesson

Sir: The German election results finally expose the lie that under proportional representation the electorate cannot rid itself of a government it doesn't like, but perhaps more importantly they expose what is perhaps the true reason for Labour's dithering on electoral reform - would it be too paranoid to say they are afraid of the Greens?

By pulling their true electoral weight over the years, the German Greens have forced the federal government to act on the environment. Far from hurting the German economy, as was originally feared, legislation on clean air (for example) has actually stimulated new economic growth, and German anti-pollution equipment is now exported all over the world.

In Britain, the birthplace of environmental politics, the Greens regularly receive 2 to 5 per cent of the vote but no seats, allowing successive governments to backslide on the environment.

Under the current system, we saw a weak Tory government held to ransom by the Ulster Unionists, which almost dished the peace process. Under PR we could see a British government forced to improve the environment in order to stay in power. I know which I would prefer.

CHARLES HARRIS

London NW3

Sir: What short memories the trade union leaders and Labour MPs who are against changing the electoral system have.

It is only a few years ago that Margaret Thatcher used huge Parliamentary majorities secured with 40 per cent of the vote to neuter the unions and bring in legislation like the poll tax. Presumably those union leaders and MPs do not mind if Mr Hague or his successors use the first-past-the-post system to do something similar in the future.

Before opposing a change to the voting system, apparently on the basis that the status quo has delivered Labour a huge majority, again with a minority of the vote, these electoral flat-earthers ought to consider that the Tories in 2001 or 2002 are certain to be more right-wing, more xenophobic, more English nationalist than even the Thatcher administrations. All they need is 40 per cent of those that choose to vote to return the 1980s nightmare on us all.

Mr Blair has the chance to stop it happening. He should take it, so that we can all benefit from a parliament made up to reflect the way we all vote, rather than one determined by the way we don't.

JAMES GIBSON-WATT

Hay-on-Wye, Powys

Moorland scars

Sir: Your environment correspondent's report about Duncan Davidson's plans to build a network of tracks in the Cheviots ("Moorland scarred by tracks for shooting", 28 September) illustrates an important anomaly. Why is it that farm and forestry tracks do not need full planning permission, unlike those used in connection with grouse shooting?

Heather moorland is a semi-natural environment, though vitally important in terms of biodiversity. The Government's own conservation agencies accept that properly managed grouse shooting is one of the best ways of maintaining and paying for heather moorland. By contrast, over-intensive sheep grazing and inappropriate conifer plantations ruin moorland. Yet landowners have traditionally received subsidies to cover moors in sheep and conifers, whereas they are taxed on shooting. The final irony is that Mr Davidson is reportedly reducing the numbers of sheep in order to regenerate heather.

The officials of Northumberland National Park - who are not exactly popular with local people - should be lobbying the Government to put grouse moor management on a level playing field with sheep rearing and



The second in a series of photographs of Cambridge before the students return: a stone angel on King's College chapel

Brian Harris

forestry, instead of wringing their hands and whingeing about "difficult decisions".

ALASDAIR MITCHELL
Stocksfield, Northumberland

British rip-offs

Sir: Clare Garner reports (21 September) that "Treasury research" shows that we are being ripped off. It is sad that politicians always seem to be the last to know these things. I have known for years that Britain is the rip-off capital of the world, and have found my own solution. Unlike Clare Garner, I do not go to America to do shopping. I just go 25 miles south of Dover and do my shopping in France, where I am less likely to be mugged or shot than in the States.

A leg of New Zealand lamb which is on sale in most French supermarkets costs, on average, the same price per kilo as it costs per pound in the store where "good food costs less" (half the price). I have seen the self same litre of "pink" which can be bought for about Fr5 (80p-90p) in France, on sale in England for £3 (yes, eight pounds!). The bottle of Chablis Grand Cru or Mersault which can be bought in France for around Fr60 per bottle appears on the shelves here at anything from £20 per bottle upwards. The only item that is as expensive, or more so, is beef, but it does taste like beef rather than a stringy cloth.

The price of wide-screen television in France start at around Fr3,900 (£290, or so) yet the same set by the same manufacturer costs well over £600 here. Computers advertised here for £999 plus VAT can be bought in a French hypermarket along with your groceries for under £500 including VAT.

We weekly accept whatever is thrown at us. If the price of lettuce (a Sweet Romaine in France is Fr3; here it is 99p) went up to £5, there are people who would shrug their shoulders and pay rather

than leave the lettuce to rot on the shelves. Perhaps we should be adopting the tactics used by French truck drivers and farmers rather than allowing ourselves to be treated as milch cows.

A CROSSLEIGH
Ramsgate, Kent

Price of the euro

Sir: Once again, your letters column has been invaded (25 September) by those seeking to spread misinformation about monetary union.

Bill Rammell MP's assertion that our being an "out" was partly to blame for the European Central Bank's decision to ban national symbols on euro notes is at odds with the ECB's own statutes, which forbid a member state exerting political pressure on the members of the ECB board. He also displays touching naivety in his confidence that Mr Blair will be able to reverse this decision.

Sir: So! "The writing's on the wall for offensive advertising posters" (23 September). But what about television commercials? The great majority which feature men, women and children interacting depict women and female babies as superior beings - clever clogs forever deriding and prodding stupid husbands and beastly boys into behaving intelligently. What offence would result if the gender attitudes were reversed?

TIMOTHY CLEAL
Wormleighton, Warwickshire

Sir: Margaret Gooley asks (letter, 21 September) what readers might do if they found a sibling of whose existence they had hitherto been unaware, and with whom they therefore shared no common memories, only DNA.

I can see that there would be

John Parkin diverts attention from the true nature of EMU by talking about speculation. Of course EMU cannot be attacked by speculators. The point is that the economic forces that give rise to currency movements, and to speculative attacks, cannot be banished by a signature on a treaty. The economies of Europe behave differently from one another. Some other means will be found to take the strain: some mixture of inflation, unemployment and real wage cuts - unless large fiscal transfers are introduced to cushion the effects.

Of course even the US did not have a single currency for some decades after its creation. And the US has a federal government spending \$1.6 trillion a year; one of its functions being the fiscal transfers needed to make its monetary union work. The same

article 2 provides that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 30 states that "Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect ... the fundamental rights and freedoms of others."

Thus a child's right to physical integrity must be applied without

Circumcision rights

Sir: M Riaz Hasan invokes a parent's guarantee of religious freedom in justification of child circumcision (letters, 26 September). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not however provide the comfort that he claims.

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Article 30 states that "Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such

prejudice to race, religion or gender. Religious freedom is no defence to the forced circumcision of infants.

JOHN D DALTON
Frizington, Cumbria

Sir: As one of your "infant" male readers I have read the letters concerning circumcision with my legs firmly crossed. I realise that it is a treasured part of the Jewish and Islamic faiths, but where on earth did this practise come from?

The Bible says it was demanded by God as a sign of his pact with Abraham. God may move in a mysterious way but this really is extraordinary. Why give it to us and tell us to cut it off? In fact the tradition went back long before Abraham and was widely practised in the ancient world, except in Babylon and Assyria.

Herodotus said it began with the Egyptians, though he did not know why, and archaeology proves that it was practised there five thousand years ago. In many places it seems to have been done at puberty for both boys and girls. In an age without painkillers or antibiotics this must have resulted in terrible infections and many fatalities, as it still does in parts of Africa.

Greeks and Romans never seem to have done it and thought it was crude and uncivilised. Under their influence the practice gradually disappeared. Some Jews even tried to reverse the effect, though how is not said! Saturists like Juvenal and Martial were particularly caustic, saying it was an example of Jewish barbarity and superstition. When Hadrian tried to ban it, however, he prompted the Jewish revolt led by Bar Kochba. Clearly new Christians, most of whom would have been adult gentiles, were having none of it and had ended within their community even in biblical times.

None of this however explains where it came from, or why.

The Rev NEIL DAWSON
London SW9

IN BRIEF

difficulties of the "where do we go from here?" variety. As an amateur family historian, however, I have sometimes come across more distant relatives. I have found that it can be a "binding" experience to pursue further family research together. It certainly provides plenty of material for discussion.

JULIA H PLUMPTRE
Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir: Oliver Cromwell was far

from being "this country's greatest parliamentarian", as Mark Pappenheim believes (letter, 25 September). He packed Parliament with members of his family and, in modern parlance, cronies, and used it to rubber-stamp his draconian measures. When it

did not co-operate he shut it down by force of arms, even going so far as to have Speaker Lenthall pulled out of his chair. Happily, Cromwell's republican dictatorship did not last long and the monarchy was restored.

DONALD FOREMAN
Secretary
The Constitutional Monarchy Association
London E4

Sir: Lyndon B Johnson came before Bill Clinton. Did presidential slogan writers have better first-hand

knowledge then, or have I interpreted them incorrectly?

Election paraphernalia,

probably including cigars, was

embazoned with the thought-

provoking "All the way with LBJ!"

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Enfield, Middlesex

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Don't count on splitting the Paris-Bonn axis

WITH THE election of Gerhard Schröder as Chancellor of Germany, Europe's three biggest countries are now led by Social Democrat parties - a fact which Labour ministers have not been slow to point out. A new triangle of power, with Lionel Jospin in Paris, Schröder in Berlin and Blair in London, is ready to develop. Furthermore, as in the words of the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, there is a chance of detaching Germany from such a close alliance with France and bringing it into a closer relationship with Britain.

Well, hold on a minute. The rejection of Chancellor Kohl after 16 years in power undoubtedly makes a difference. So does his replacement by a coalition led by the Social Democrat Party. Germany is now like Britain and France, headed by a politician who has virtually no direct memory of the Second World War. Their leaders are also all politicians essentially intent on replacing the previous hegemony of conservatism with a modernised, liberal-left politics that absorbs all the lessons of Thatcherism but softens them with kinder words.

But there the similarity ends. Blair took over a Britain largely Thatcherised but tired of her stridency and wearied by the fractiousness of a government that had stayed in power too long. Jospin and now Schröder lead governments where unemployment is high, recession a recent memory and moves towards a full, free market economy barely started.

For them, and their countries, the aim is still a delicate balancing act between the demands to ease the pain of change with the requirement to promote it. The consensus politics of Europe, with their awkwardly balanced systems of presidential and parliamentary structures, and varying forms of proportional representation, may seem cumbersome to the British.

In this process, a change of government in Bonn - soon to be Berlin - is welcome. Whether one approved of Chancellor Kohl or not, he had clearly run out of steam in moving Germany along the path of change. The public were tired of him, as the French public were of his contemporary, Mitterrand, and the British of Mrs Thatcher. A great opportunist, Kohl had seemed to have outlived his two great achievements of reunification and European monetary union.

His successor will probably prove less influenced by the former and less determined on the latter. The pace of European integration will slow without Kohl.

So will the pressure for enlargement and foreign inter-



ventions through Nato or a European foreign policy.

That may well make the new Germany a little less attractive to the France of President Chirac (though not necessarily as much to Prime Minister Jospin) and more attractive to London. But it would be quite wrong to think in terms of a new triangle, let alone of a new Anglo-Saxon axis. If Germany does prove more cautious on integration it will be largely because it is no longer willing to pay the cost of being Europe's paymaster. That may suit us on federalism but not on enlargement. A more introverted Germany will also still need to base itself on the Bonn-Paris alliance, even more so as the world

economic recession bites. If France and Germany, and most of the rest of Europe for that matter, share common problems of market change, still more do they share common economic prospects. The threats to the euro-launch will keep Paris and Bonn more than fully occupied, without worrying about relations with a Britain that is not a party to the whole enterprise.

The change in government is welcome for all sorts of reasons to Tony Blair. But it does not change much, still less remove, the urgent need for the British to throw themselves into the task of reshaping a Europe of monetary union.

How do we fund pensions, then?

YESTERDAY'S SPEECHES by Alistair Darling and Gordon Brown made some of the right noises about welfare and the economy. No one doubts the need for economic stability, or that our benefits system fails to deliver help to those most in need. But both men were shy about outlining the policies themselves. It is a great pity that Labour conferences now seem to be devoid of detailed debates, since the meat of actual policy arguments would make for a much more exciting, vigorous and successful conference. The issues abound for Labour to address. As the world teeters on the brink of recession, it would be better to hear Mr Brown's views on managing the economy, than yet another set of warnings issued to the trade unions and the Left. What does he think about world interest rates? Debt relief? Reform of the world economic superstructure?

The public is not so naive as to believe that there are no differences in the party over policy. The fringe is full of ideas and contesting beliefs, from pensions to transport policy. Why does John Prescott talk about proportional representation rather than the shape of his stalled integrated transport policy? It is obvious that commuters, or parents anxious that their children are choking on car exhaust fumes, are concerned about the latter rather than about the detail of Labour's cooperation with the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Darling also has a series of real policy decisions to make. Does the Labour Party approve of contributory pensions? If so, will there be top-up contributions demanded from those on lower incomes? Are rates of personal taxation inviolable in principle, or could they change as part of a overhaul of incentives?

All these questions add up to one dilemma: does Labour cherish "enterprise", or public provision? The conference Labour is not having would thrash out an answer. Alone under the party's new rules, ministers can, and should, make those debates a reality.

In homage to beer

A REAL-LIFE Homer Simpson has been discovered living in the wilds of Clevedon, near Bristol. Nick West has already added an extension to his home, in order to fit in his thousands-strong supply of empty beer cans. Now he is looking for a new house to fit them all into. What will people collect next? Hundreds of television sets to slump in while glumly staring at the football? Thousands of low-slung couches to lie on while snoring? Millions of packets of peanuts?

The only debates worth having occur outside party conferences



DAVID AARONOVITCH
In May 1997, millions of voters did not vote for the composition of the NEC of the Labour Party

that was not, unfortunately quite enough? Just how much is Ken's "bit more"? And how would he spend it? One minute the extra money would go on public sector pay and the next it would "soak up unemployment" caused by the coming recession.

The contradiction there is pretty glaring, but no-one picks him up on it. Like one of his own pets, Ken moves with insinuating ease from soft-toned criticism to regretful disagreement. It is a shimmering, iridescent display. Follow the trail back to the creature's lair, however, and you find it empty. Where is the plan? We should cut interest rates, no matter what the impact on inflation; increase taxes sufficiently both to create many new jobs in the public sector and to remunerate those in them much better. Mean-

while we shouldn't make welfare reforms, shouldn't have tuition fees and so on. Liz, naturally, agrees. She

wants higher rates of income tax kicking in at "over 20,000 or so", thus raising the revenue we need to fund health and education ("promises we made to the electorate"). Promises on taxation are presumably regarded by Liz as deserving all the fidelity of a Tudor marriage.

Such wish lists do not make an economic strategy. So what might Liz or Ken's view of an alternative be? Once again Briefing rides to the rescue. In October's edition a comrade from Cambridgeshire writes a long article on the alternative. It concludes: "An ideological shift is required which reflects seriously on the methodology most appropriate to economic enquiry and which instead of justifying the enslavement of humanity seeks to emancipate it from the tyranny of inequality and poverty. The urgent task still remains to develop a radical economics that responds to the concerns of those who do not share New Labour's belief in the beneficence of the market to meet the real needs of real people in the real world."

And that, comrades, is where it stops. There is not one single word about what the urgent "shift" is. Frankly, even in-ye-face Trotskyism, or a lengthy Helen Brinton disquisition on the Third Way, is preferable to this shifty vacuity. The real debate, as is, is about whether countries, acting together, can construct a set of rules within which the global marketplace operates. But you will hardly hear a word of this at the Labour conference.

Similarly, it is depressing to listen to the self-interested guff that passes for conference debates about matters such as electoral reform. After the

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Major is the very antithesis of Clinton. He doesn't need dangerous sex to turn him on." Dr Andrew Sianway, a sexologist

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Many men would take the death sentence without a whimper to escape the life sentence which fate carries in her other hand." TE Lawrence, British soldier and writer



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IN HER moment of triumph yesterday, Liz Davies - newly elected to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party - permitted herself a few little digs. Victory for herself and her three fellow members of the Grassroots Alliance had come, she said, despite the fact that "columnists on various papers heaped insults on myself and my fellow candidates. I am proud that party members saw through the falsehoods and distortions and voted solidly for a socialist alternative."

She has forgotten, I think, in all the excitement, that her slate was not actually promising a socialist alternative, but was rather explicitly capitalising on discontent with the Party's undoubted centralising tendencies. But let that one go, for I rather think that I am one of the columnists that Ms Davies is referring to. Certainly my article last month about *Labour Left Briefing*, a publication-cum-grouplet upon whose editorial board she sits, attracted a series of angrily worded letters of rebuttal from a good half of that board (all of them undeclared, incidentally), and a letter threatening to issue proceedings for libel "without further notice" should I not retract and apologise unequivocally my observations, from most of the other half. As readers can see, I do not retract them; I stand by them. As yet, five weeks later, proceedings have not been issued.

Interestingly not one word that I wrote was specifically contradicted by those threatening action or complaining. Tim Pendry, as "co-ordinator of the Grass-roots Alliance", wrote that I was "sustaining a campaign of personal vilification" by having the

temerity to point out that *Briefing* was, to say the least, ambivalent about its attitude to the morality of Irish Republican terrorism (Indeed, another piece in October's edition of *Briefing* refers to the "armed struggle").

What was remarkable to me, however, about this reaction was its solipsistic assumption that I was somehow involved in their tedious little war that I had been put up to it by the Blairites in order to get members of the Labour Party to vote for this slate rather than that. Whereas the truth was, and is, that I do not care who gets elected to the NEC of the Labour Party. I don't even know how many posts there are on it. In May 1997, millions of voters did not vote for the composition of the NEC of the Labour Party. It is Tony Blair's principle virtue that he isn't a party man, and isn't a narrow tribalist.

But activists often are. So when they talk about the "need for debate", they are part right and part wrong. It is indeed imperative that the Government should find itself involved in challenging discussion and debate. If, however, the debate involves a shouting match with Liz Davies and her Briefing friends, it is the wrong debate. It won't get us anywhere.

Take the economy. According to Ken Livingstone yesterday: "People in the party want to increase tax, spend more on the welfare state and want interest rates to come down and don't want to get into bed with Paddy Ashdown." That was why they voted Grass-roots, apparently. Ken later advocated, "a bit more on taxes, a bit more spending". "A bit more"? So what did the Comprehensive Spending Review represent? A "bit more"

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to Schröder's election
as the new German Chancellor



progress of social democracy in Europe.
Libération, France

KOHL SPOKE of a dynamism, but wasn't able to convey it. He

challenger who made vague promises of stability and affluence.

Frankfurter Allgemeine,
Germany

spoke of an atmosphere of renewal, but went about spelling the opposite. The voters were more keen for a change than anyone might have expected. It was a courageous

election. If one adds up the votes cast for left-of-centre parties, the swing that becomes apparent is greater than that of the legendary Willy Brandt election.

The results signal a big change, not just a little shift.

Change is upon us. But "red-green's" majority will be small. So small, in fact, that it will require a lot of discipline - and forming a coalition will take some time.

Süddeutsche Zeitung,

Germany

Le Figaro, France



PANDORA

SECURITY AT the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for this year's Labour conference will surely become legendary in years to come. Yesterday afternoon the journalist Greg Pallas, who broke the Cronygate story in *The Observer* a few months back, was stunned to be refused entry to the conference hall by none other than Adrian McMenamin, the Party's chief press officer. The reason? "Pallas was allocated a pass, but it was withdrawn because of serious allegations involving his behaviour," McMenamin told Pandora. Could he be more specific? "Allegations of harassment of a delegate." He implied that Pallas was found somewhere he shouldn't have been. Pandora is eager to hear Pallas's view of the reasons for his banishment.

SHORTLY BEFORE the above dramatic episode took place at the gates to New Labour nirvana, a charming grey-haired lady delegate had her knitting taken away by guards. It seems that her needles were longer than 3in, thus considered "offensive weapons". Looking understandably baffled, she was slightly reassured to hear that her jumper-in-progress would be returned at the end of the day.

IN BLACKPOOL, a small band of heroic individuals, keen to assert their idealism in the face of the Party's state-of-the-art control methods, even includes a few Cabinet ministers. One of them is Clare Short, who has made no secret of her lack of enthusiasm for wearing the blue Somerfield-sponsored lanyard around her neck; she has been sporting her own conference security badge on a chain. What does the supermarket group Somerfield, who paid £20,000 for their sponsorship privileges, think of this? "I haven't heard that this is the case. I'm going to go ask the Labour Press Office if this is true," Jill Rawlins, head of Somerfield's public relations, told Pandora in a rush. Elsewhere on the conference's Lanyard Battlefield, there is a red ribbon which has been produced by two British trade unions. It reads "GMB & KFAT Support UK Clothes, Textile and Footwear Workers" and is being worn by a number of delegates who, presumably, feel more strongly about saving British jobs than about Somerfield's "retail issues" and, of course, party sponsorship funds.

AS HURRICANE Georges approached New Orleans on Sunday, the mayor ordered a 6pm curfew, but a few intrepid bars in the French Quarter refused to close. In one of them, Daiquiri's Delite Shop, a New York lawyer named Jill Zibkov insisted on celebrating her 30th birthday by drinking Martians – daiquiris served in 2ft-tall green alien-shaped glasses. She told *The Washington Post* that she had previously been having trouble pronouncing "Georges" but no longer. "You have to have a couple of these Martians to say it properly." Pandora suspects that she'll remember her hangover long after the hurricane has been forgotten.

WHAT DO his fellow Rhodes scholars think of Clinton's disastrous misbehaviour? At least one of them, the singer-actor-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, has gone on the record with a characteristically memorable view: "It's OK to step on your dick, Mr President," Kristofferson told *Entertainment Weekly*. "Just don't stand on it." Sadly, the Democratic party will have to run on it in November.

BOB LAXTON, Labour MP for Derby North, may not get invited back to the Trades Union Conference next year. At a trophy presentation evening for Derby University Rugby Club recently, Laxton was asked whether he had attended the TUC Conference. "No, it's one of the most boring events I can imagine," the MP replied. When he spoke to Pandora in Blackpool yesterday, Laxton ventured that "the social scene at Labour conferences is much more entertaining. But I can imagine that there may be people who find Labour conferences boring, too."

AUCTIONS OF celebrity clothes and other belongings have definitely hit a new low. A lavatory seat from one of the singer Courtney Love's former hotel rooms is now being auctioned on the Internet (www.ebay.com). The minimum bid required is \$150. Apparently the former grunge queen rejected the seat as "uncomfortable" and it was cherished by one of the staff at the New Mexico hotel in Santa Fe after being replaced by a coster throne. Connivours will presumably be pleased to hear that the object comes with a "certificate of authenticity".

UNTIL RECENTLY, I had always thought that the only interesting thing about Will Carling was that his thighs are said to be so massive that he is physically unable to cross his legs. The rest – his rugby playing, his somewhat accident-prone love-life, his surprising career as a management guru, his iffy relationship with Diana, Princess of Wales – seemed relatively predictable and tedious, but those legs, and the way they made apparently normal women go all quiet and glassy-eyed, reminded you that, in spite of our obsession with the subject, female sexual desire still remains a profound mystery.

But now Will has done something so perfectly in time with the spirit of the times that it is almost as intriguing as his physical deformity. The break-up with his blonde of the moment was apparently precipitated by her reading an early draft on his computer of an article expensively commissioned by a Sunday newspaper. In it, she discovered that references to her, and presumably their baby, were written in the past tense; this seemed oddly significant. It turned out that her

lover had been working on the public account of his desertion before he got around to breaking the news to her. Even in the golden age of the celebrity confessional, this sense of priorities, putting the serialisation before the dumping it describes, represents something of a first.

Vulgar? Insensitive? Crass? Of course, but in 1998 it could be said that the need to express your private

pain to as many people as possible is an essential part of public life. Without descending to the popular tabloid, the casual reader of the weekend press was able to share details of Des Lyman's adultery, Margaret Cook's insights into the infidelity of her ex-husband, the Foreign Secretary, and more than he or she would normally want to know about the rift between Anne Robinson and her daughter over something she had written earlier.

For reasons which may have to do with pre-millennial panic or simply the dullness of most people's sex lives, we live in a voyeuristic, masturbatory culture where public figures eagerly enact our fantasies and desires, acts of betrayal and misery, rather than Sam the barman in the sitcom *Cheers* used to sleep with women on behalf of Norm, Cliff and the other sad sacks who hung out at his bar.

But there's more to the Carling story than an emotionally confused male making money out of the unhappiness he has caused. It happens that he was one of the first sportsmen to finesse his career into a broader context, using the new

seriousness with which sport is now taken to present himself not only as rugby captain, but as a captain of life, a leader.

In 1995, he wrote a book with Robert Heller entitled *Way to Win: Strategies for Success in Business and in Sport*, which modestly presenting sport as metaphor for management – the scrum as a business meeting and so on – analysed successes of pitch and field with many a solemn pronouncement. Sebastian Coe's recovery from a defeat by Steve Ovett to win an Olympic gold medal in another event showed that, well, if one thing doesn't work, maybe you should try another.

It would probably be deemed old-fashioned to introduce the phrase "officer material" at this point; it was certainly not among the management bullet-points in *Way to Win* – but it's surely true that, by claiming to be a leader, a person puts himself into a different category from, say, Des Lyman's lover.

To pursue your own financial concerns at the expense of others, to play the celebrity flashing game, to be more concerned above all else with your own image, reveals a

profound lack of officer material. Even if we don't know it, the rest of us care about such things.

Glenn Hoddle could be as eccentric as he liked, employing New Age gurus and leaving Michael Owen out of early games of the World Cup, but it was when he revealed confidential details of the way Paul Gascoigne reacted when he was dropped from the team that he lost public support. If Gascoigne had told the story, there would have been no problem; from the coach, the boss, we expect less self-interest and more dignity.

Oddly, being of officer material is less to do with morality than with loyalty and dignity. It is not the misdemeanours of, say, a Cecil Parkinson or a Jonathan Aitken that shows them up so much as their squirming, indecorous subsequent behaviour. Conversely, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, can be portrayed as a middle-aged groper and lech, yet somehow by taking responsibility for his actions, by not blaming other people, by attempting to behave with a sort of honour, he seems, if not exactly a great general, then undeniably an officer.

Responsibility breeds content



TERENCE BLACKER
We live in a voyeuristic culture where public figures enact our fantasies and misery

to do with your own financial concerns at the expense of others, to play the celebrity flashing game, to be more concerned above all else with your own image, reveals a

What's the Big Idea? I don't know that we need one



ANNE MCELVOY
The centre Left hankers for Thatcher's sureness, a set of responses to any problem that arises



Margaret Thatcher didn't need any way, other than Her Way

into submission. He succeeds in this by avoiding strict categories and delineations. So Blairism is not a word that looks or sounds natural. Yet we speak quite easily of a Blairite approach to decisions.

Mr Straw builds his personal Third Way around a statement in *Tawney's Equality*: "If Labour is to do the job for which it was created, it must do three things. It must be returned to power. It must succeed when returned, in carrying out its programme. It must defeat such attempts... as may be made to frustrate it. It will not do so, except on the spearhead of a strong body of convictions."

That is eloquent. But it is far from obvious that it is true. Many parties have governed successfully without fulfilling Tawney's requirement: the Conservatives, from 1951-1964, spring to mind as a party which held office simply by being, rather like New Labour, a party people felt comfortable with. In the Continental post-war split between Christian and Social Democratic parties, the difference has been emphasis, not conviction, with both parties honourably wedded to corporatism, and the principles of social inclusion.

Courtesy of Anthony Giddens,

we now have something like the updated version of Tawney's creed:

"The new individualism is associated with the retreat of tradition and custom from our lives," Giddens writes. "We have to make our lives in a more active way than was true of previous generations. Third Way politics should preserve a core concern with social justice, while accepting that the range of questions which escape the left/right divide is greater than before."

Added to all that, it sounds like a recipe for flexible, responsive, grown-up politics. But a "way" it isn't: The neglect of the F-word in the

Third Way should concern Blairite liberals. There is not a lot of freedom about in this discussion. The desirability of "limiting the voluntary exclusion of the élites" sounds suspiciously and impractically dirigiste for a modern government, however well intended.

Giddens writes: "Freedom to social democrats, should mean autonomy of action, which in turn demands the involvement of the wider social community."

Call me old-fashioned, but autonomy of action cannot "demand" anything. Freedom may be, as libertarians believe, the highest good. Or it may be, in the definition of that other great political theorist, Janis Joplin. Just another word for nothing left to lose. What it cannot be, in any readily understandable sense, is Professor Giddens' definition.

The bit about winning elections is a bit of a giveaway: would the Third Way outlined by Mr Blair have any future, if he should ever end up losing an election?

A truly big idea, like Gladstone's support for Irish Home Rule, must be worth risking defeat for: I doubt whether the Third Way will enjoy such longevity.

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The original settlers had a hard time

' ON 27 MAY 1948, 500 people sailed from the Caribbean on the SS Empire Windrush in search for a better future. The ship arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on 21 June 1948. It was the beginning of a change to the face of Britain.

In mid May 1948, adverts appeared in Trinidadian and Jamaican daily newspapers saying that a troopship was leaving for the United Kingdom and the passage was £23 and 10 shillings. It was an opportunity not to be missed. The SS Empire Windrush was on its way back to England, and 500 West Indians took up the offer.

Many of them did not have enough money to pay for rooms in hotels, or hostels. So it was a Jamaican, Baron Baker, who took the responsibility of arranging accommodation for the settlers. In 1944, he had joined the Royal Air Force. After the Second World War, most of the West Indian servicemen and women were demobilised and sent back to the Caribbean. Baron had remained in London. Major Keith (an official from the Colonial Office) told him of the Windrush settlers, as Baron was in a position to assist them when they landed. The Colonial Office had made no preparation for them, and it was Baron who suggested the use of Clapham Common Deep Shelter.

He told Major Keith: "The Air Raid Shelter had been used to house Italians and German prisoners of war, and even myself, when I came to London sometimes and could not find accommodation. So why not open it for the people on the Windrush?"

On the evening of 22 June 1948, the shelter housed 236 Windrush settlers. The decision to open it was important in the making of Brixton as a multi-racial community. The shelter was less than a mile away, and most of the settlers found lodgings in the London Borough of Lambeth.

They were among the first group of Caribbean people to settle here during and after the end of slavery, had little or no influence in bringing about a change to the face of Britain.

The nation remained monocultural until June 1948.

Black communities have existed mainly in Liverpool, as Baron was in a



PODIUM
ARTHUR TORRINGTON
The Secretary of the Windrush Foundation to the South Place Ethical Society, London

London, Cardiff and Bristol for over 400 years. African slaves had been taken there from the 17th century, and after slavery was abolished in 1834, many of them made their homes in those cities. But their communities were perennially rendered powerless by local (and national) authorities, and thugs who made their lives uncomfortable.

In the "Introduction" to a booklet published in 1988 to

commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Windrush landing at Tilbury Docks, Professor Stuart Hall, of the Open University ("a Jamaican"), wrote: "The great wave of post-war migration from the Caribbean to the UK can be symbolically said to have begun with that fateful voyage. The history of the black Diaspora in Britain begins here."

They were leaving behind a homeland, not yet liberated from direct colonial rule, where the flag of Empire still flew, making them not full citizens of their own country, but subjects of a colonising nation.

They were leaving behind the immense poverty of the countryside, and the declining estates of Britain's "sugar colonies" – once the jewel in the crown, and destined to become the symbol of a one-crop declining monoculture.

A land where, for all its extraordinary natural beauty, its vivacity, the vigour of popular life and culture, and its range and diversity of peoples and cultures, the opportunities for ambitious young people and the prospects for their children, especially if they came from the "lower orders", were nil.

What they were coming to was certainly not a "Mother Country", a land of milk and honey, where the streets were paved with gold. Those who had served in His Majesty's forces knew better than that. But, though the path for black men and women was uncertain, there were opportunities, like chances to be taken by those who were willing to gamble with the future, because they had so much at stake and so little to lose.

The Windrush settlers, and others who arrived later, had to struggle to survive in Britain. They endured prejudice, discrimination and harassment. In spite of these, many individuals have made progress economically, educationally, and otherwise – against the odds.

The UK has become a multicultural, multi-racial society, a situation that would have been unthinkable in June 1948. The Windrush celebration has been an occasion, not only for looking back 50 years, but also for looking forward to the 21st century and debating the future of the children and grandchildren of those who first laid a foundation for them in Britain.

JAVIC 15/9

New Chancellor, old ways

"THIS IS A historic moment" a stalwart German Christian Democrat whispered to me as Helmut Kohl mounted the stage at the party headquarters in Bonn. As if it needed saying! Given the Christian Democrats' bad defeat, we all guessed that, after 16 years in power - 16 years that changed the world - the giant of Oggersheim, the Chancellor of German unity and European unification, would be stepping down. When the cries of "Helmut! Helmut!" had finally abated, he gave a dignified short speech saying he would cease to be party leader as well as Chancellor.

For Germany's conservatives, this was like Mrs Thatcher's departure and last year's electoral disaster rolled into one. Like the British Conservatives, many Christian Democrats had felt the defeat coming. But the scale of it was still a shock - especially since the opinion polls had shown them catching up. As in Britain, people simply felt those in power had been there too long. They got bored with the same old faces. Boredom is an underrated factor in politics.

Kohl is the last great European statesman of the 20th century. As I watched him take his leave, I thought of a memorable conversation we had a few years ago. At one point he took my breath away. "Do you realise," he said, "that you are sitting opposite the direct successor to Adolf Hitler?" The point of his startling, even shocking, remark was that he - the first Chancellor of a united Germany since Hitler - was going to do everything quite differently. Whereas Hitler had tried to put a German roof over Europe, he was determined to put a European roof over Germany. This amazing sally encapsulated several ingredients of Kohl's greatness: his acute instinct for power; his historical vision and the bold simplicity of his strategic thinking. To that we must add tactical adroitness, party-political cunning and, not least, vast physical stamina.

Sunday's election was not only the end of this garrulous phenomenon. It was also the end of the Bonn republic. Next year the government will move to Berlin. As Isherwood didn't write: "Goodbye to Bonn". Walking up the modest dual carriage-way which is the spine of the dark Rhineland city, with cheerful crowds thronging the pavements, their attention soon turning back from the election to a rock band, beer, and the Formula One Championships just up the road, I felt a pang of regret. For the Bonn republic has been a good Germany, perhaps the best Germany we have ever had. And in this election it proved the maturity of its quiet, civil democracy. Not only did the German voters once again reject the extremes of left and right, despite 4 million unemployed. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic, they also changed the government as the direct result of a general election. According to the winner, the Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder, this, rather than Kohl's departure, is the reason it may deserve the title "historic".

As I write, the triumphant Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens announce that they will open the coalition talks that precede the formation of any German government. Assuming these are successful, the two parties together will have a comfortable majority. Let me make three guesses about this "Red-Green" coalition which, under Chancellor Schröder, and soon in magnificent new Berlin offices, would take Germany into the next century. My first guess is an optimistic one. It has to do with so-called "foreigners" living in Germany. The only disturbing element in



TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

If Germany is to remain competitive and to create new jobs, it needs... Thatcherism with a human face

this election campaign was the popular hostility to these "foreigners" that it revealed, especially in east Germany. To be sure of tumultuous applause, a politician had only to say something about foreigners "not abusing our hospitality" or "respecting our laws and ways". On the streets of Berlin the posters of a far-right nationalist party proclaim simply "Criminal Foreigners Out!"

This is a problem that Germany has made for itself. Whereas Britain has a very restrictive immigration policy but is quite liberal in granting British citizenship, Germany has been extremely liberal in taking people in but very restrictive in granting them German citizenship. The result is that a staggering 7 million people live as "foreigners" in Germany.

Now the Greens are admirable on this. They say: if a Turkish worker has lived here for years carrying out all the duties of a citizen, then he should have all the rights of a citizen as well. So my hope is that Germany may finally get a more normal, liberal citizenship law, as in Britain and America, with the main criteria being place of birth or long-term residence, rather than ethnicity. And high time too.

My second guess is more pessimistic - for Germany, though perhaps not for its competitors. Helmut Kohl probably did larger things for his country than Margaret Thatcher did for hers. (To be fair, larger things needed doing. The United Kingdom did not need to be reunited, rather the reverse.) But Kohl failed to do precisely those big things that Thatcher did: reducing the power of the unions, privatisation, deregulation, lowering direct taxation, cutting public spending and so forth. Now Gerhard Schröder fought a campaign of Blairite discipline and razzmatazz. But to be a Blair in office, you need first to have had your Thatcher.

If Germany is to remain competitive and to create new jobs, it needs some of that medicine: Thatcherism with a human face, so to speak. I think Schröder himself understands this. But in his own party the old left is much stronger than it is in New Labour. Not he but Oskar Lafontaine is party leader, which is rather as though Blair were Prime Minister but John Prescott were Labour leader. Schröder won older voters from the Christian Democrats by promising to restore their pensions. He also says that he will defend the welfare state and deliver "social justice". Meanwhile, the Greens have an agenda very far removed from neo-liberal economics. They want punitive taxes on petrol, for example. This does not add up to the political basis for



All the world loves a winner: Germany's new Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder

EPA

reforms that German business leaders reforms that German business leaders

think are essential.

Finally, a guess about Europe and the implications for Britain. At the moment, it

seems likely that Joschka Fischer, one of the most effective self-styled "realists" among the Greens, will become Germany's new foreign minister. This may be bad for concerned military action under Nato auspices in places such as Kosovo, since the Greens still have an influential pacifist wing. It is unlikely to change the main lines of German policy in Europe.

Here, victory for the "German Blair" will give the British Government new hopes of building a Franco-German-British triangle instead of the exclusive Franco-German axis. Schröder himself has made a nod in this direction. I think there is some basis for these hopes, less because all three governments are now of the left, than because the successor generation in German politics is simply cooler and more hard-nosed about Europe than were post-war Euro-enthusiasts such as Helmut Kohl.

Schröder himself was initially sceptical about European monetary union. Like so much else about him, it is hard to know whether this was a matter of personal conviction or simply trimming to public opinion.

Now, of course, he'll go through with EMU and try to make it work - as should we. And his inaugural speech may still contain the usual visionary Euro-rhetoric. But

unlike Kohl, he won't in fact be pursuing a personal vision of ever closer political union. This, together with the themes of flexibility, subsidiarity and eastward enlargement of the EU, makes common ground for a Blairite Britain.

Yet Blair will have to work at it. There remains the hard fact that Germany and France are inside the inner core of monetary union, and we are not. There is a great battle ahead about Germany's outside contribution to the EU budget. And as I write these lines, German television reports that Schröder will definitely make one foreign trip even before becoming Chancellor. It is - you guessed? - to Paris. Like a chip off the old block, a leaf off the old Kohl.

RIGHT OF REPLY

LADY MARY FRETWELL

The Chairman of Passports for Pets replies to Suzanne Moore's article on their campaign

OUR QUARANTINE laws are old fashioned and cause needless inconvenience for pets and owners alike. When he was Minister for Agriculture, Jack Cunningham recognised these concerns, and set about a reappraisal of quarantine laws, by asking Professor Ian Kennedy, of the University of London, to undertake a study.

The report of Professor Kennedy and his colleagues has given a powerful boost to the campaign to reform this outdated and primitive system. Their report knocks on the head the arguments which have been used for decades to perpetuate the idea that incarcerating cats and dogs in cages for six months is the only way to protect the realm. It confirms that vaccination is a safe and modern alternative.

I think that Suzanne Moore ("A few of my pet hates") accepted this in her tongue-in-cheek article, but I would like to take her up on one point.

She wrote: "It seems logical that, as the threat of rabies diminishes, the quarantine laws should be relaxed. Yet the language that all this is discussed in is emotive. Pets go through the "ordeal" of quarantine, while their miserable owners have to endure separation.

Our peculiar attitude to animals is once more on display."

But for pet owners facing the prospect of having their animals locked away, this is a very emotive issue indeed. We have thousands of members overseas who face the anguish of either putting down their pets, subjecting them to quarantine, or being unable to rejoin their families in the UK. As Suzanne Moore points out, press attention does indeed tend to be focused on the few well known personalities who have spoken on this question. But for every "superstar" there are a thousand ordinary mortals who want the right to travel with their pets.

Now that Professor Kennedy has told the Government that it can be done safely there will be a tide of pressure - and emotion - from those whose lives have been affected by the quarantine system. Could Suzanne Moore not spare a thought for their feelings on pets, even if they are different from her own?

A battle against philistinism

WITH HIS usual flair, Stephen Bayley greets the Labour conference with the accusation that New Labour is guilty of fascism and philistinism. Bayley is the "design guru" whose meretricious celebrity turned to notoriety earlier this year when he resigned as the consultant creative director at the Millennium Dome, crying in frustration that the Millennium Experience could turn out to be "crap".

This short book, written with the verve, wit and plausibility that has powered Bayley's rise from his humble origins as a design historian, is his revenge. It takes in a lot more than the Dome. He detects New



Labour's incipient fascism in its Orwellian instant-rebuttal machine, Excalibur; and its love of the pseudo-event, demonstrated in Cool Britannia and the rebranding of Britain. Its love of spin attributes - hardly originally - to the man who caused his departure from the dome: the New

TUESDAY BOOK

LABOUR CAMP
BY STEPHEN BAYLEY, BATSFORD, £16.99

Millennium Experience Company's single shareholder, Peter Mandelson.

Bayley warns: "Here is a Government which strikes liberal poses, but is in fact decidedly authoritarian. Without wanting to indulge in hysterical exaggeration, New Labour's obsession with style and propaganda has much in common - at least in the structural sense recognised by anthropologists and historians - with the Fascist governments of pre-war Germany and Italy." For Blair's "the People" read Hitler's "Volk".

To the style-conscious Bayley, philistinism is as much a crime as fascism. He has fun with Lord Irvine's wallpaper and Chris Smith's unfortunate book, *Creative Britain*. The most energetic and interesting pages are devoted to the Dome and his unpleasant experience there. Sadly, this account will not be much use to historians.

He calls the press officer Gez Segar as "a shifty little character" whose training in Walworth Road has produced the "futile retraction and denial" style of public relations, typical of New Labour. Yet we learn far more about where the bodies are buried from Bayley's diary, published in April's *Esquire* magazine. What we do learn is that buried in this heavily polluted site is "a bright orange barrier layer of plastic... just below the surface, both to contain the toxins and warn men with shovels of the simmering subterranean threat."

Bayley's case rests on the Dome having been hijacked by New Labour as "a political advertisement". The conflict between the genuine creative

ity available in Britain and the closed, Civil Service mentality of those running it has produced "a paradigm of bad management", where the answer to every problem is to call in the consultants. The problem is compounded by Mandelson's "disposal attitude to aesthetics" and political flippancy. This has led to such stratagems as the invention of a non-existent sport - Surfball, supposedly to be played in the Dome - in order to fool a parliamentary committee.

Without creative leadership - and here I heartily agree with Bayley - the Dome is an empty shell where the designers are like film crew "asked to make a movie without a director and without a script". There is enough advertising money to make the Dome a successful visitor destination: "the tragedy is the lost opportunity". In Bayley's view: "The man responsible for hijacking a project that could have been one of the great international world exhibitions, but is instead going to be a cruddy and demoralising theme park, is Peter Mandelson."

From its title onwards, Bayley's polemic relies heavily on the arguments of Susan Sontag's 1964 essay *Notes on Camp*. Camp, she argued, signified the triumph of style over content. Whole schools of cultural theory have been built on such deciphering of the iconography of everyday life; it is a real pleasure to see the methodology applied to a concrete political situation. The victory of style over content sums up New Labour nicely.

Yet we must ask whether Bayley, who sees typography "as far as more



Dome experience revealed

important in the general run of things than politics itself", isn't a bit camp. He is the quintessential product of the culture of consumption. Given his insights as the Dome's stylist, this book could have done with more content. Nonetheless, when he abandons his preening prose and point-scoring to write an open letter to the Prime Minister we can see that, about the Dome at least, Bayley is right.

London truly is a creative place, he writes, and in the Dome the opportunity to create is there to make "Greenwich a comprehensive showcase for talent and expertise". In his view, "the Millennium Experience should be a confident expression of a vision, based on superb academic research, supported by sponsors who are cultural and technical collaborators, not merely sources of funds, and executed with uncompromising bravura by the very best architects, artists, film-makers, musicians, writers and designers."

But as long as the politicians are in charge that won't happen. The Dome remains an intellectually empty space, built on politically poisoned ground.

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TUESDAY POEM

NO LAZARUS
BY DANNIE ABSE

At the time of the Resurrection
not one person rose up
from the cemeteries of London.

But, at Marylebone Road,
a procession of clothed dummies
streamed out of Madame Tussaud's,
arms raised, wild, shouting Hallelujah.

The Archbishop of Canterbury
and other official sources
denied a computer error.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Dannie Abse's new collection *Arcadia, One Mile* (Hutchinson, £6.99), which marks his 75th birthday. The exhibition, Dannie Abse: Poet and Doctor, runs at Church Farm House Museum, Hendon, London NW4 until 15 November

Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes

IN SEPTEMBER 1939, when the Second World War broke out, John Hayes was the junior Navigating officer (N) in *Vindictive*, the cadet training cruiser; after three years as a specialist navigator, spent mainly in *Foureye*, a sloop in the Persian Gulf, and with four years seniority as a Lieutenant.

During the next six years he would survive the sinking of the *Repulse*, the surrender of Singapore and the disintegration of Convoy PQ 17. He was one of that generation of officers who had lived through the singular rigours of Dartmouth and began to enjoy the relative peace of wardroom life in the old Navy and the last years of peace wherever it took them. They were to start their war as junior officers, and those who survived would find themselves competing for professional survival and promotion when it ended and the Fleet began to contract, just as they were in the zone for a brass hat or a fourth stripe.

Christened John Osler Chattock Hayes, Hayes inevitably became known as Joe, which is how he is remembered in the Navy. He entered via Dartmouth in 1927 and went on to enjoy most of the 39 years he spent on the active list and the 32 more in nominal retirement.

He was born in Bermuda in 1913, to the wife of an Army doctor in the RAMC. Before the Second World War, he had survived life in the gunrooms of the college, of the *Royal Oak* in the Mediterranean and the stately cruiser *Cumberland* on the China station, before going as a Sub-Lieutenant to the older light cruiser *Danube* in his native West Indies.

Vindictive had been demobilised in 1937, and mobilisation meant a need for regular officers in the ships to come out of reserve. Hayes became N of the old light cruiser *Cairo*, manned mainly by ratings from the recently formed Humber division of the old RNVR. A navigational near-miss with a channel buoy during the passage of an East Coast coal convoy revealed that he had an eye problem. One consultant pronounced that he should never have been entered; another attributed the incident to strain.

He was discharged to shore early in 1940, but his dismay and uncertainties were resolved by an appointment to the old battle-cruiser *Repulse*. He had acted as Accountant officer as well as Navigator in *Foureye*; now he remastered as Signal Officer; and again as only the second N.

Admiral Sir Tom Phillips had been serving in the Admiralty for some time when he found himself sent to sea. He was far from enthusiastic about the doctrine of "naval air" and a strong partisan of the battleship. He took his little



When I bobbed up, the great iron structure of the main top skidded just above my head as the ship plunged on and down with the screws still turning'

squadron, the *Prince of Wales*, *Repulse* and four elderly destroyers, without air cover on a fruitless reconnaissance east of the Malayan peninsula, which ideally should have been left to land-based aircraft – a grounding had denied him the carrier *Indomitable* intended for his force.

The result was that, within the hour, all the capital ships were sunk by Japanese aircraft on 10 December 1941. As Captain S.W. Roskill, the Navy's official historian of the Second World War, found, the Admiral's "belief that air cover would meet him off Kuantan, when he had given Singapore no hint that he was proceeding there, demanded too high a degree of insight from the officers at the base".

It was wishful thinking described as a reluctance to break radio silence. Hayes called it a "lethal mistake". However defined, Churchill later admitted that the *Repulse* a tor-

pedoing was "the most direct shock" he felt in the war, and despite some brilliant and valiant ship-handling it cost the lives of the Admiral, his Flag Captain, 327 men from the flagship and 513 from the *Repulse*, which sank within eight minutes, turning over at 20 knots after three torpedoes opened her port side.

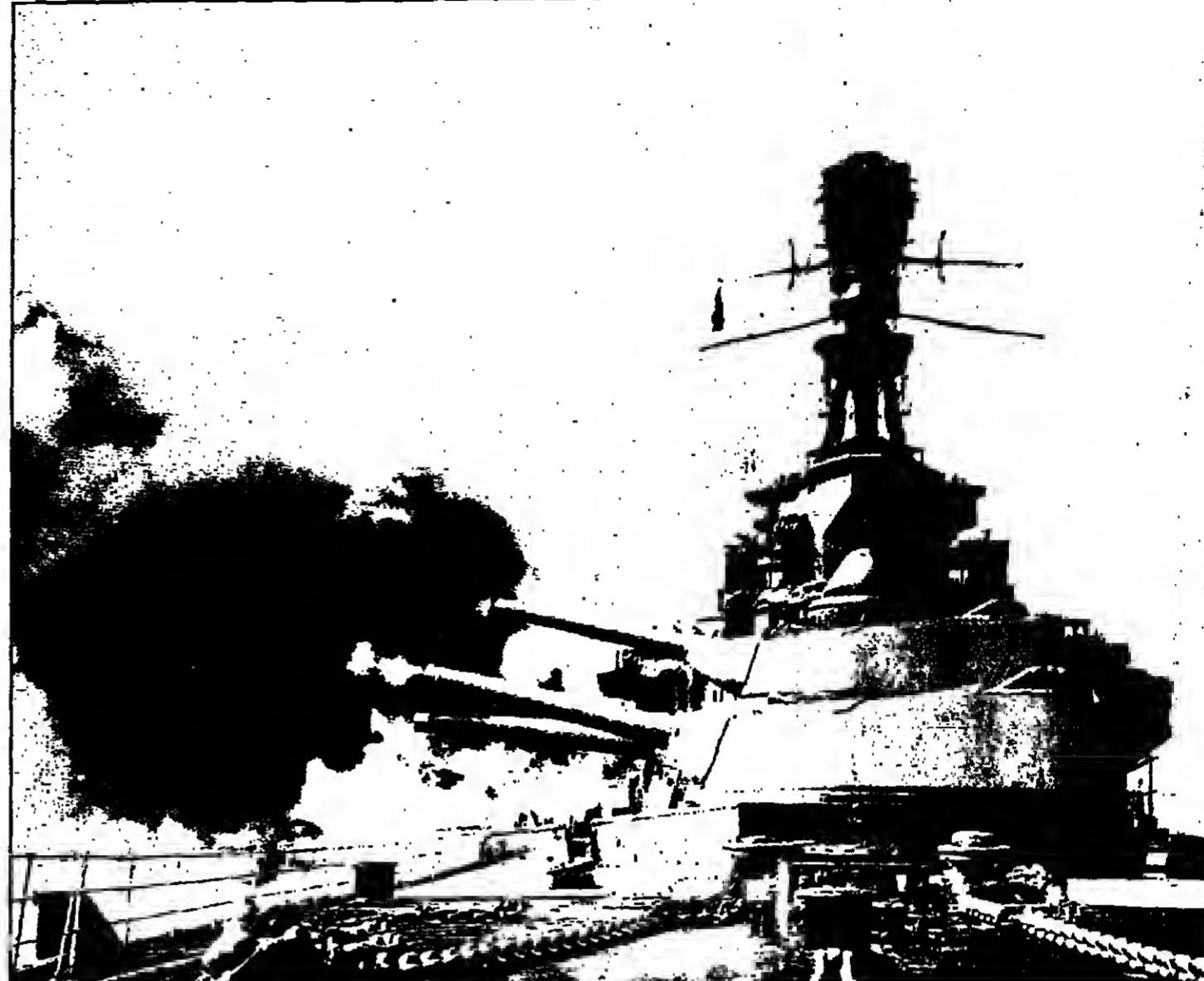
Hayes was lucky. Out on the signal deck, he found his movements being "dictated by gravity, like one of those balls on a billiard table that bounces off pins... the funnel, red hot from steaming, the port flag lockers, normally 50 feet above the waterline, they were almost awash, and so overboard helplessly and down for what seemed a long time. When I bobbed up, the great iron structure of the main top, normally some hundred feet above the waterline, skidded just above my head as the ship plunged on and down with the screws still turning". Hayes's year in *Repulse* would always remain to him "the centre of gravity of my naval life". Not surprisingly, perhaps.

Rescued by the old destroyer *Electra*, which did more than yeoman work that day, Hayes returned to Singapore. As naval liaison officer to the 2nd Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, (who, perhaps partly because of his initials, made him an Honorary "Jock"), he did great work there in assembling "a motley armada" to lift the soldiers off the Malayan mainland.

Their Colonel and Joe were last across the causeway appropriately piped, albeit in the Caledonian mode. Hayes was evacuated to Batavia in the new destroyer *Jupiter*, having witnessed with dismay and contempt the breakdown of army discipline, especially among the Australian troops, as they walked to be surrendered. A frustrating passage to Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was then called) in a Dutch coaster and an onward passage in a trooping to Liverpool brought him home.

He became SSO (Staff Officer, Operations) to the newly promoted Rear-Admiral Louis "Turtle" Hamilton, commanding the 1st Cruiser Squadron with his flag in London. In July 1942, when escorting Convoy PQ 17 was published, his contemporaneous potted notes, once flown to his C-in-C by a reliable old Walrus amphibian in order to preserve radio silence, were of material help to Commander J.E. Broome, who had commanded an Escort Group in close support of the convoy and now successfully sued his critic for what Hayes called "vicious fabrication".

This decision, "the wisdom of which was doubtful from the start, was thus made disastrous when translated into action", and cost 23 of the 36 merchant ships involved – "the poignancy of the tragedy is only accentuated by our present knowledge of how easily it would have been avoided", according to



HMS Repulse in 1939. Hayes was serving on the old battle-cruiser when she was torpedoed in 1941. She sank in eight minutes

At the time, the C-in-C Home Fleet, Admiral Sir John Tuvey, considered that "the order to scatter the convoy had been premature; its results were disastrous". Once again Hayes had been fortunate. But in 1948, when David Irving's *The Destruction of Convoy PQ 17* was published, his contemporaneous potted notes, once flown to his C-in-C by a reliable old Walrus amphibian in order to preserve radio silence, were of material help to Commander J.E. Broome, who had commanded an Escort Group in close support of the convoy and now successfully sued his critic for what Hayes called "vicious fabrication".

Hayes stayed with the Home Fleet until 1944 when he went out to the Mediterranean, on the staff of Admiral Gerard Mansfield. In 1945 he was promoted Commander, and appointed OBE for his work in the liberation of Greece from invasion and from Communism. Promoted to Captain in 1953, he commanded a frigate squadron off South Africa. Alas, his eyes troubled him again, and he was never to command a large ship. But his merits were recognised. He became one of the principal appointees, for commanders and more junior officers, under the Second Sea Lord and then Naval Secretary to the First Lord, a post which he filled for two years until he was promoted to the Flag List in 1962.

In 1964 he flew his flag as FO Flotillas in the Home Fleet, and then as second-in-command of the Western Fleet. His flag in the already obsolescent cruiser *Tiger*, he revisited Bermuda once more. He was advanced to Vice Admiral in 1965 and his last appointment was Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland from 1966 to 1968 when he retired. He had been appointed CB in 1964 and was advanced to KCB in 1967.

He then embarked on a long and happy so-called retirement; it is very pleasing to see the longevity of so many sailors who survived particularly trying times on active service. Admiral Sir Frank Twiss attributed the phenomenon in part to the pre-war regimen at Dartmouth.

Hayes worked hard as Chairman of the Scottish Council of King George's Fund for Sailors (1968-78) and of the Cromarty Firth Port Authority (1974-77). He was a member of the Royal Company of Archers (the Monarch's bodyguard in Scotland) and from 1977 to 1988 Lord Lieutenant for Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh.

He recorded his recreations as walking, music and writing and in 1991 published a valuable autobiography entitled *Music the Music*. This is well worth reading and makes a fitting and lasting memorial to a long and rewarding life. It is a valuable guide for any rising officer in even

a shrinking navy: how to restore discipline and improve morale in an unhappy ship, how to serve two masters – First Lord and First Sea Lord – without losing the respect of either or one's own integrity, and how to make the disappointed make the best of things when determining their destinies; all are evidenced.

John Hayes was a delicate dedicated officer, who could tell a joke against himself, and it was the date of his birth more than anything else which tapered his career.

A. B. SAINSBURY

John Osler Chattock Hayes, naval officer: born 9 May 1913; OBE 1945; CB 1964, KCB 1967; Flag Officer, Flotillas, Home Fleet 1964-66, Scotland and Northern Ireland 1966-68; Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh 1977-88; married 1939 Rosalind Finlay (two sons, one daughter); died Inverness 7 September 1998.

Fritz Reckow



Path-breaking musicologist

BY GENERAL agreement, Fritz Reckow had one of the sharpest brains in all musicology – "a mind like a needle", in the words of one admiring colleague. His heart lay in the Middle Ages, but his relentless curiosity, which extended from medieval organum through Wagner and Bizet to questions of computer applications in music, meant that his interest was directly engaged across the entire eight centuries of Western music.

Reckow was faithful to the southeastern corner of Germany for most of his life. He was born and schooled in Bamberg, before moving in 1959 just down the road to the University of Erlangen, a little to the north of Nuremberg, to study musicology. His studies were completed at the universities of Basel and Freiburg im Breisgau, where in 1965 he was awarded a doctorate in musicology. His subsidiary topics were medieval

history (Middle Latin philology in particular) and New Testament literature and exegesis.

From 1965 to 1973 he worked with the renowned musicologist Hans Heinrich Eggebrecht on the *Dictionary of Musical Terminology*, published under the auspices of the Institute for Musicology of the University of Freiburg im Breisgau and the Mainz Academy of Science and Literature; from 1973, for six years, Reckow was in charge of the project.

He began lecturing – and a Reckow lecture was guaranteed to stimulate lively interest – at Freiburg in 1966, with occasional secondments to the universities of Basel and Hamburg. In 1979 he turned down the offer of a chair at the University of Vienna in favour of a professorship in Kiel, where he also became director of the Musicological Institute. He was to remain in Kiel until 1987, when in the final move of his career he took up

a similar position at the University of Nuremberg-Nürnberg.

Fritz Reckow's contribution to the study of medieval music was enormous. Two related themes that ran intertwined through his career were

the relationship between music and language, and the idea of music as language, themselves topoi borrowed from the medieval mind. Indeed, this ability to cast off the academic accretions of the intervening centuries and examine a problem with his curiosity unchallenged by anachronisms was one of the distinguishing features of Reckow's scholarship, as of all outstanding medievalists. He realised straightaway that understanding the medieval mind meant embracing its own intellectual constructs – linguistic, mathematical and architectural – and sought to understand medieval music in those terms.

Reckow first made his mark with his PhD dissertation, a seminal examination of "Anonymous IV", a 13th-century treatise that is one of the most important surviving sources of information about the polyphony composed and performed

at Notre Dame in Paris in the late 12th and early 13th centuries – the beginnings, in fact, of the western musical tradition. Among the topics that Reckow tackled in this thesis was the problem of rhythm in two-voice organum – an obscure enough subject, perhaps, if you're standing outside the discipline, but Reckow's unexpected insights turned the academic status quo on its head: it was clear that a major analytical mind had emerged.

A stream of further articles consolidated his position as probably the most radical and fruitful mind in medieval musicology, culminating in his path-breaking – or rather path-re-establishing – *Organum-Beginning und frühe Mehrstimmigkeit* ("The Concept of Organum and Early Polyphony"), 1975, which again derived its power from Reckow's ability to move inside the medieval imagination.

He took as his starting-point the analogy drawn by many medieval commentators between the organ and polyphonic music and assiduously traced that relationship back to the mathematical constructs of the ancient Greeks. The American musicologist Charles Atkinson, in recommending Reckow for a Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Ohio State University (a position he held in 1986), described "The Concept of Organum" as "without doubt one of the most impressive and insightful studies I have ever read". Musicologists still speak of this monograph with a respect which approaches awe.

Yet Fritz Reckow wasn't some ivory-tower intellectual: music mattered to him as living expression and active pursuit. He was an important figure in Nuremberg's International Organ Week. He fought – successfully – to have the offices of the

Ray Bowden

RAY BOWDEN was paid perhaps the ultimate footballing compliment in March 1933 when the most successful manager the English game had then known asked him to replace a star performer in one of the greatest of all club sides.

The Arsenal boss Herbert Chapman was keen for the mild-mannered Cornishman, then playing his trade with Second Division Plymouth Argyle, to succeed the brilliant but ageing inside-forward David Jack in a Gunners team which was on the verge of lifting the Championship and which would sweep all before it as the decade progressed. So keen, in fact, that when Bowden refused his first approach, he made another, and another, agreement finally being secured on Chapman's third visit to Devon.

Such apparent reluctance to embrace the big time might seem pe-

culiar to observers of the cash carnival that football has become in the 1990s, but in an era when all players received a maximum wage, a transfer did not have the same financial implications that it has today. Eight pounds a week was still only eight pounds a week, whether it emanated from the gleaming marble halls of Highbury or the more modest surroundings of Home Park.

Still, the manager's persistence paid off and Bowden, who cost £4,500 and was Chapman's last major signing before his premature death in 1934, immediately justified the great man's judgement by helping Arsenal to clinch that term's title, though Bowden refused his first approach.

He made up for that in comprehensive manner, playing a significant role as his new club went on to complete a Championship hat-trick over the next two campaigns. In addition,

he took part in the 1936 FA Cup Final triumph over Sheffield United, won six England caps and enjoyed two outings for the Football League. Bowden was a graceful ball-player whose slender, almost frail build belied a sinewy strength, although he would have made more than his 136 league and Cup appearances for the Gunners but for a nagging vulnerability to ankle injuries. His passing was smooth and thoughtful, making him a regular creator of goals for others as well as scoring 47 of his own in League and Cup competition.

He formed a productive right-wing partnership with the dashing Joe Huizne and became an able if often unobtrusive foil for the rest of a sumptuous forward line consisting of Ted Drake, Mex James and Cliff Bastin. All his England honours were earned during his Arsenal so-

journey, the highlight of his two-year international career being the so-called Battle of Highbury in 1934, when he helped to defeat the world champions, Italy. The game – in which he played alongside no less than six of his club colleagues, a record – earned its final tag when the visitors, apparently misconstruing the intent of a vigorous early challenge from the ultra-competitive Drake, resorted to brutal tactics.

Bowden, who had worked as a solicitor's clerk on leaving school, came to the notice of Plymouth Argyle after netting ten times in an amateur match for his native Looe. He joined the Pilgrims in 1926 and won a Division Three (South) title going in 1929/30 before Chapman persuaded him that he had a glittering future in north London.

In 1937 George Allison, Chapman's successor, opted to reshuffle



Bowden's slender build belied a sinewy strength

complete edition of Wagner's letters transferred to his university. Erlangen, a short drive south through rural Franconia from the hallowed portals of Bayreuth. And, marrying the theoretical with the practical, one of his (still unpublished) studies tackled the question of naturalness vs craft in the composition of music from Lully, the first composer of the Sun King, to the first enfant terrible of the 20th century, Stravinsky. Reckow would have laughed at the anachronism, but the image of Umberto Eco's cowled monastic investigator in *The Name of the Rose* presses forward. What this particular investigator discovered quite simply rewrote history.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Fritz Reckow, musicologist: born Bamberg, Germany 29 March 1940; married 1964 Eike Vollbrecht; died Erlangen, Germany 30 August 1998.



President Yeltsin, centre, in Moscow flanked by Tom Mori and his wife, Yasuko. Mori sold two of Yeltsin's books in Japan

Tom Mori

TOM MORI was the chairman and owner of the oldest established and biggest literary agency in Japan, the pre-eminent agent for Asian translation rights and well known in publishing circles all over the world. He had an exceptional understanding both of his own, Eastern culture and of that of the West. Tuttle-Mori's slogan was, aptly, "Agency to Span the East & West".

He was born in Manchuria in 1942. When Chairman Mao's forces advanced the Mori family escaped with their only child and his father secured a job with Mitsubishi and was posted to New York. This gave Tom a remarkable grounding in English and a deep love of all things American.

He finished his studies in Japan at the prestigious Keio University in Tokyo and was then persuaded by the great American pioneering publisher of Japanese and Asian material Charles E. Tuttle, his uncle by marriage, to join the literary agency that Tuttle had founded in 1948 in Tokyo to introduce works by foreign authors to the Japanese market. Although he went into an agency with an existing structure, at the age of 24 the young Tom Mori brought a fresh mind and enthusiasm to the business. The Tuttle-Mori Agency - as the Charles E. Tuttle Literary Agency became - is 50 years old this year.

Each year the Frankfurt Book Fair would ring with the sound of Mori's

laughter. Travelling widely in Europe and America, he sought out authors he felt would be of interest to Japanese readers and persuaded them to give him a chance.

He opened up the Japanese market not only to best-selling fiction and non-fiction authors such as Frederick Forsyth, Jeffrey Archer, John Grisham, Patricia Cornwell, Boris Yeltsin, Simon Schama and Alan Bullock, but also to children's writers and illustrators in

tended the three-day housewarming party the Moris held in Arizona in June 1996; nearly 200 guests from all over the world flew in for feasts, sightseeing and line dancing.

The agency became wholly his in 1978 and he set about assembling a first-class team, many of them female graduates - unusually for a Japanese firm at the time - who were not only committed to books, but multilingual. Each year they saw more of the translations that had

as traditional scouts in London and New York. Mori added representatives in Munich, Milan and Paris.

Tom Mori was a man of strong character and great individuality. He wore a personalised watch - a gold Rolex studded with diamonds and latterly with Navajo turquoise. He was a talented linguist, learning Italian in order to secure a big Italian publisher's business. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in the Kremlin with Boris Yeltsin, whose books *Against the Grain* (1990) and *The View from the Kremlin* (1994) he had sold in Japan. He was equally at ease with a taxi driver. He was passionate about golf and had just represented Tiger Woods's autobiography.

In July Mori was diagnosed with cancer just before leaving for a summer break in Arizona where he had designed and built a house for his family. He had married a fellow graduate of Keio, Yasuko Sanobe; they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in March.

He was full of plans for the future of the business despite the recession in Asia and pleased that his son, Ken, had joined his team in the previous year.

NINA MARTYN

Takeshi Mori, literary agent: born Harbin, Manchuria 18 January 1945; married 1973 Yasuko Sanobe (one son, one daughter); died Tokyo 26 August 1998.

cluding Roald Dahl and Beatrix Potter; Eric Hill and Michael Foreman, as well as the more literary Saul Bellow, Julian Barnes, Norman Mailer and Anita Brookner; he also sold business books and academic works such as *Grove's Dictionary of Music*. If there was one book which he cited as his proudest deal it was Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*.

Many of the authors he represented in Japan became close friends and at-

gone through the agency appearing on the Japanese best-seller lists and competing with indigenous writers.

The agency also dealt with other aspects of intellectual copyright; another branch was set up to handle electronic video and television rights from abroad.

In the last decade operations had expanded in Asia and Tuttle-Mori became affiliated with agencies in Taiwan, China, Korea and Thailand, always working with local colleagues. As well

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CAPLIN: On 25 September to Adeen (nee Connolly) and John, a son Leon Daniel, a brother for Max.

DEATHS

BETTS: Jonathan, OBE, husband of Susanna and dear father to Daniel and Julian, died peacefully in hospital after a short illness on 24 September, aged 86. The funeral service will be at Lambeth Crematorium Chapel on Saturday 3 October 1998 at 11.30am. Family request no flowers please. Donations if desired to a charity of your choice.

NICHOLSON (see Love): Christine, of Brighton and formerly London, died in Rouen while on holiday, aged 66. Lecturer for many years at the City Lit, London, she was survived by her husband, her children Jane, Paul and Caroline, by her grandchildren Carmen, Mateo, Anna and Sophie, by her nieces, Aida and Geoff, and by her son, the National Crematorium, Brighton, st. 2.5pm on 2 October. Donations to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, 108 Grosvenor Road, London NW5 4BD. Any enquiries to 42 Temple Street, Brighton BN1 3BL.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Michelangelo Antonioni, film director, 86; **Air Marshal Sir David Atkinson**, former Director-General, RAF Medical Services, 76; **Mr Gene Autry**, actor, 87; **Lord Avebury**, former Liberal MP 70; **Sir John Balcombe**, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; **Mr Robert Benton**, film director, 66; **Mr Richard Bonage**, conductor, 88; **Chris Broad**, cricketer, 41; **Mr Sebastian Coe**, Olympic gold medallist, 42; **Mr Gareth Davies**, rugby footballer, 42; **Mr John Dawes**, rugby player and coach, 58; **Mr Colin Dexter**, writer, 68; **Miss Anita Erdberg**, actress, 67; **Professor Dorothy Emmet**, philosopher, 94; **Mr Alasdair Fraser QC**, Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, 52; **Mr Lance Gibbs**, cricketer, 64; **Miss Patricia Hodge**, actress, 52; **Professor Richard Hodges**, archaeologist, 46; **Mr Henry Kewsey**, chairman, Matheson & Co, 60; **Mr Jimmy Knapp**, general secretary, Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, 58; **Mr Stanley Kramer**, film producer, 85; **Mr Jerry Lee Lewis**, rock and roll singer, 63; **Mr Murray McLellan**, Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, 69; **Mr Rhodri Morgan MP**, 55; **Dr Colin Niven**, Headmaster, Alleyn's School, 57; **Canon Paul Oestreicher**, former Director of the International Min-

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Tintoretto (Jacopo Robusti), painter, 1518; Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, playwright and novelist, 1547; Horatio Viscount Nelson, admiral, 1758; William Thomas Beckford, novelist, collector and spendthrift, 1760; Mrs Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, novelist, 1810; William Whiteley, department store pioneer, 1813; Sir Billy Buddin, holiday camp pioneer, 1899; Trevor Wallace Howard, actor, 1913.

Deaths: Sir William Orpen, painter, 1931; Winifred Holtby, novelist, 1935; Bruce Bairnsfather, cartoonist, 1959; Carson McCullers, novelist, 1967; Wyndham Auden, poet, 1973.

On this day: the police force inaugurated by Sir Robert Peel started duty in London, 1829; Italy declared war on Turkey over Tripoli, 1911; Turkey and Bulgaria signed the peace treaty of Constan-

tinople, 1913; the Allies broke through the German Hindenburg Line, 1918; a British Mandate was proclaimed over Palestine, 1923; the BBC Third Programme started, 1946.

Today is the Feast Day of St Gabriel, St Michael and St Raphael, archangels, Saints Rhipsime, Gaiana and Companions and St Theodore of Philippopolis.

DINNERS

London MOD Naval and Civilian Officers Admirals Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, accompanied by Lady Slater, was the guest of honour at a dinner held yesterday evening by the London Ministry of Defence Naval and Civilian Officers at Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10. Admiral Jonathon Band presided.

BYRON SOCIETY

Lord Byron presided at a meeting and supper held yesterday evening by the Byron Society at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. "Byron - East and West", a résumé of an international conference in Prague. Mr Geoffrey Bond, Chairman of the society, Dr Peter Cochran, Miss Christine Kenyon-Jones and Mr Michael Foot, Deputy Chairman, also spoke.

THE REV DONALD ENGLISH

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the Rev Donald English, past President of the Methodist Conference and World Methodist Council, and former Moderator of the Free Church Council, will take place on Friday 2 October at 12 noon at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Tickets are not required.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Picturing Women (vi: Manet, Eva Gonzalès)", 1pm. **National Portrait Gallery:** Liza Vaughan-Hughes, "The Deep River Run On the Poetry of W.H. Auden", 1.10pm. **Royal Commonwealth Society, London WC2:** Sir Crispin Tickell, "Oceans and Ice Ages", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Patron, attends a gala performance and dinner in aid of the City Ballet of London at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1. **CHANGING OF THE GUARD** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

HISTORICAL NOTES

ALAN PALMER

Urgent news - by gun, bell and semaphore

TWO HUNDRED years ago this month the British public was anxiously awaiting news of victory or defeat in the naval war against republican France. During the last days of July 1798 London had learnt that Bonaparte was sailing eastwards from Toulon with a huge expeditionary force, stopping to seize Malta as his stepping stone to the Orient. What was his destination? Alexandria? Syria? Even India, perhaps? No one knew. It was some comfort that Nelson was said to be in pursuit. The hunt was on: a 39-year-old admiral chasing a 28-year-old general.

For week after week nothing was heard in England of this great pursuit. All August and September rumour and speculation fed minds hovering uncertainly between eager expectation and despondency. Had Nelson sunk the French fleet or was Bonaparte master of the Levant? Not until Monday 1 October did the sloop HMS *Musique* reach Portsmouth with Nelson's report of his triumph at the mouth of the Nile exactly two months previously: only two of 12 French ships of the line escaped destruction; Bonaparte's army was stranded in Egypt, with no hope of supplies or of a mass return to France. On Tuesday morning, gun salutes from Hyde Park and the Tower rocked London; bells rang out from St Paul's and all the city churches.



Napoleon: almost fatally out of touch

did not reach Napoleon until 17 November, sent on to him by courier from Paris, as he was marching triumphantly on Vienna.

The news made little difference to his plans. The time-lag did, however, emphasise the need for contact between the political autocrat commanding a great army in the field and his executives in Paris. Semaphore stations linked the capital to the frontiers, from where flag relay posts were set up. But the greatest land empire since Charlemagne could not be governed by flag signals; fast couriers were essential.

The decisive crisis of political communication hit Napoleon in the Russian Campaign. Advanced staging posts at Vilna and Vitebsk enabled couriers to carry Napoleon's orders from Moscow to Paris in 15 days, but only so long as the weather held. With the early coming of winter in 1812 the system collapsed. Wild rumours spread across Europe. To the British public the absence of good and reliable news might be frustrating; to the French Empire it proved almost fatal. A madcap conspiracy in the capital raised the bogey of republicanism. "My presence in Paris is essential for France," Napoleon declared when he heard of the conspiracy, snowbound in Russia. A 1,100-mile journey by carriage and sledge brought him back to his capital in 13 days.

From then until the last days of the empire he never again risked isolating himself from Paris.

Alan Palmer is author of *An Encyclopaedia of Napoleon's Europe* and *Napoleon in Russia* (Constable, £20 and £8.95)

Why should anyone apologise for the frock?

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

29 SEPTEMBER 1988

Charlotte Du Cann, "The Independent's new fashion editor, nails her colours (not necessarily designer black) to the mast

that even though we are not 82 years old a frock is never a dress? Fashion-speak uses words like directional and knows what they mean. Do you? I don't.

Only bimbos care about fashion. Contrary to received opinion, it is possible to look good and still have a brain. Dressing with a deliberate disregard for form and beauty is not a sign of intellectual or moral supremacy, only of mealy-mouthed imagination.

Fashion is not a funeral, in spite of its predilection for wearing black: it is a pleasure. It is as amusing to put on a new hat, it feels as good to put on a new white shirt, as it does to eat a perfect peach, or jump into the sea. You would have to be a kill-joy puritan to deny that. Are you? I'm not.

Only girl bimbos care about fashion. Contrary to received opinion, it is possible to be not 18, not size 10 and not female, and still be interested in looking good. Are you? Read this page.

I would die for that hat. No one should die for anything, let alone a hat, even if it is designed by Chanel. This page is not for fashion victims (though it may observe them). It is for those who know that there is life after the shops close; that fashion does just not happen on the catwalk, any more than art does in galleries or books in literary criticism; that the clothes we wear are inspired as much by film, music, history, sport and travel as they are by designers. Jump in here!

From the *Fashion page* of *The Independent*, Thursday 29 September 1988

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

lamer fill, v.

buying batteries to 'lamer fill' for future use."

He might say that the quotation marks imply post-modern irony in an age when

refrigerators have ousted the lamer, but his gruesome "grown", his view of humanity as "consumers" and that tautological "future use" make us infer that he is a man who thinks "lamer fill" a smart synonym for hoard or stockpile - unless scorned now, it might make the next edition of that recent vulgar *New Oxford Dictionary*.



What price perfection, and what size?

A new book traces the breast's changing shape from 'little balls of ivory' beloved in the Renaissance to the late 20th century's pneumatic grapefruits. By Sarah Lonsdale

Had Melinda Messenger been born in the Middle Ages, she would never have become the national celebrity she is today. Rather, she would have crammed her breasts into a restricting corset in an attempt to reduce them to the then fashionable size of walnuts. A thousand years ago, large breasts were good only for wet-nursing. At a time when girls were considered marriageable at the age of 12, breasts the size of "virginal buds" were all the rage.

Over the intervening millennium, the ideal size of the female chest has steadily grown, from medieval walnuts, to Renaissance "apples in the prime" and "little balls of ivory", when well-endowed women would squeeze themselves into whalebone straitjackets which often caused fractured ribs, bad breath and fainting fits, to the pneumatic grapefruits of the late-20th century. We are today in a state of near-hysteria about the female breast, according to an American academic, Dr Marilyn Yalom, when Page Three models become overnight celebrities and the new Wonderbra is delivered to American department stores in armoured cars.

In her new book, *A History of the Breast*, which traces its importance in society over the past 3,000 years, Dr Yalom argues that the farther breasts depart from their original nurturing function, the more men, and therefore society, become obsessed with the breast as erotic object. She points out that women in Africa and the Pacific walk about all day long with their breasts exposed, as they are needed for quick access by hungry children.

In these countries, other female parts, usually the buttocks, are the source of erotic potential. In the West, and especially the US, where fewer than a quarter of all mothers breast-feed their babies beyond the first few weeks of life, we have reached the stage where women will pay thousands of pounds, and risk their health, to increase their chest size to the supposedly ideal 33DD. Conversely, when American plastic surgeons have been known to refuse women breast reduction operations until they get written consent from their husbands.

The author herself is a neat, petite, pinup-like woman who on her own admission would have been prized

in the Middle Ages for her tiny breasts. "When I go on lecture tours, I always catch members of the audience - men and women - trying to see what sort of breasts I have. People can't help it. The size of a woman's breasts has become one of the identifying markers of her entire persona." Is it pure chance that in her publicity photographs, and in the high-necked, dark, demure frock she is wearing today, it is impossible to see any flesh below the collarbone?

In her book she puts forward the argument that Western men, deprived of the maternal breast and never growing breasts themselves, suffer from "breast-envy". "In a way you have to feel sorry for men," she says. "They never grow out of this infantile obsession with the

women in the States being arrested for indecent exposure if they reveal their breasts "at or below the areola"; but when Dr Yalom first started researching the book four years ago, women in most American states were still being arrested for breast-feeding in public. Not only that, but when a New York woman recently admitted to enjoying the physical sensations when her baby fed at her breast, she was charged with assault and had her baby taken into care. "I had just finished writing a book about women in the French revolution, when they were exhorted to breast-feed for the sake of democracy itself. Yet in my country you had naked breasts in magazines and at the cinema, but a nursing mother could be arrested for indecent exposure. That's weird."

That is weird, and goes a long way to explain some of the more extreme statements in the book, such as: "Women's breasts are for men's pleasure alone" and, "For most of Western history women's breasts have been controlled by men." Although Dr Yalom does acknowledge the "delicious pleasure" a woman's breasts can give her, she devotes an entire chapter to the "erotic breast" with just one single reference to a female perspective. In her defence, she says that she scoured several centuries of literature on the breast, desperate to find "anything, anything at all, a poem, a fragment from a novel" where a woman expressed pleasure in her own breasts. The only female-authored reference she can find is in fact written by a lesbian nun, describing how she remembers her lover caressing her "little breasts". *The Sun* would have had a field day.

Men, she says, are irresistibly drawn to the nurturing power of the female breast, and the bigger the better. Her own domestic situation, however, appears not to contradict this argument, at least to give me a little more credit. Her husband, Irvine, she says, "never was a leg man" and she often catches his eyes straying as a large-breasted woman walks past. Yet he has chosen to marry a woman who possesses no more than virginal bumps.

It is no accident that the author of this book is American. At least in this country and the rest of Europe, while no doubt a breast fetish exists, it is not illegal for women to take off their tops in public. Not only can

breast and spend their lives trying to return to a lost paradise. Even well-educated male friends have admitted to me that often the first part of a woman's body they scrutinise is the chest, not the face. They say they can't help it. They are programmed that way."

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Dr Marilyn Yalom, left: 'The size of a woman's breasts has become an identifying marker of her persona'

Genna Naccache

scribing the erotic potential of their own breasts, and even then, female writers are aware of the dual purpose of the breasts.

All the years of girlhood we wait for them, / Impatient to catch up, to have power / Inside our sweaters, to replace our mothers... / When the lovers tick them / And bring us there, there, in the fragrant wet, / When the babies nuzzle like bees.

That poem, by Alicia Ostriker, refers to something that Dr Yalom

scribing breasts does give us a certain power. And, hell, it's fun to don a Wonderbra from time to time and watch male colleagues desperately trying to prevent their eyes from being drawn to our chests.

Although the prevailing modern fashion for breasts is large and gravity-defying, from her research Dr Yalom has discovered that the fad for smaller breasts comes around about once every 60 to 80 years, and we are due for another bout of boyish chests in about 2020.

She also believes, however, that

after centuries of the erotic focus, the image of the breast will gradually mutate into something more sinister as the incidence of breast cancer rises, and women - and their partners - will live in fear of what their breasts may have in store for them. She even argues that today's obsession with large breasts is partly owed to society trying to laugh off the fatal potential of the breast.

"Today," concludes Dr Yalom, and not a little sententiously, "The breast reflects a medical and glob-

al crisis. We are anxious about our breasts just as we are anxious about the future of our world."

Try telling the man ogling Page Three that in reality his interest in the female form reflects a deep-seated fear about the potentially fatal nature of the female breast and, by extension, the future of the world itself.

A History of the Breast by Marilyn Yalom is published by Pandora, price £12.99. Breast Cancer Awareness month begins this week

REVELATIONS

LENNY KRAVITZ, NEW YORK, 1969

I went to church to become Michael Jackson



Lenny Kravitz: 'Music is my saviour, and a whip beating my back'

MY PARENTS lived in one of the nicest landmark blocks in Manhattan - right opposite the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But in complete contrast, because they worked odd hours, I stayed during the week with my grandparents in a rough area of Brooklyn called Bedford Stuyvesant - Mike Tyson, Biggie Smalls (The Notorious B.I.G.) and Spike Lee all came from there. It made life very interesting and I learnt to relate with all kinds of people. But then my father is a Russian Jew and my mother is from the Bahamas, so here I am in the middle.

My parents were both in show business and from a very young age, instead of leaving me home with a babysitter, they took me to see Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and James Brown. Obviously I didn't know how the magnitude of these people, but I loved being there and it brought me to life. I even sat on Duke Ellington's lap while he played piano and once on my birthday he even performed "Happy Birthday" for me. I'd always enjoyed music but the time it really changed my life was when I was just five years old and heard the Jackson Five for the first time. I was in Brooklyn at my grandparents when "The Love You Save" came on the radio and, immediately, I knew that was what

I wanted to do. I really identified with this amazing little kid but somehow, I don't know how, I also heard the quality: the horns, funky guitar and incredible bass line. We bought the single and I played the song so often it must have worn out.

We didn't have a large mirror that I was tall enough to see into but for some reason we owned a big piece of plywood, which lived behind a door in the apartment, and I used to put it down over the carpet so I could get some stick movement. I would take a pencil for a microphone and perform my Jackson Five thing. The Jacksons had these really cool boots that they used to wear with pants which stopped at the knee. To copy them for my routine I would put on my rubber galoshes even though, disappointingly, they only came up to mid-calf. I also grew my hair into a nice big afro like Michael's. Instead of playing with toys, I would take the pots, pans and spoons out of the kitchen and pretend they were a drum kit. After a while I progressed to an old acoustic guitar - it belonged to my dad but he never played - and started picking on that. I was for ever fantasising about being a musician, but at that age it wasn't about money or being a star, but about how much fun being in the

Jackson Five would be.

Most children change from wanting to be a fireman one week to a ball player or a nurse the next, but not me - music was always my focus. It created a tunnel vision and deciding so young was frustrating: school became just something to get through. I wanted to start right away if Michael is doing it now, why do I have to wait? So when we moved to Los Angeles, (my mother had a big TV show called *The Jeffersons*), I was made to audition for the California Boys Choir - after the Vienna Boys Choir - after the most respected in the world.

Although I'd been quite a precocious five-year-old, listening to Tchaikovsky, which my parents thought was really funny, by 11 I was into Jimmy Hendrix, Kiss and Led Zeppelin - just a little different from classical music! The training programme was very intense but I made the concert choir and started at the top: my first ever concert was at the Hollywood Bowl with the LA Philharmonic - full-on drama! The California Boys Choir really cracked the whip, we all had to dress alike and never run. We were made to walk everywhere - and I mean everywhere. The choir master would yell at us and within seconds we'd have lined up in two rows from tall to small. My life became dominated

by rules. Each year, we'd even live together for a two-month intensive training programme. What's more, we couldn't listen to anything but classical music - the one exception was the Beatles.

I got a taste for touring and recording, but my focus was on getting out! I didn't want to be a classical musician, but I believe that if I hadn't have sung with the choir I wouldn't be here today. I might not even have started at all without that launch pad, after the Vienna Boys Choir - after the most respected in the world. My mother would have never sent me to the choir if it hadn't been for Michael Jackson. So it was a strange experience to actually meet him! There was Michael, Prince and myself, all in the same room. We hung out together for a while, but because Michael really liked my hit "It ain't over till it's over" he asked me to sing it. Getting on stage in front of 50,000 is fine, but if Michael asks you to sing a few bars you clam up! That meeting brings my story right round, however I wasn't brave enough to tell him how I got started.

Ever since I heard Michael Jackson at five, I've been very focused: "Don't get in my way or I'll steamroller right over you."

wanted my career so bad, I just kept running around, but my mother always tried to pull me back and get me to look at my life as well. Sadly, she passed on and I've needed time to reflect. Eventually you have to deal with what is going on inside. I've got a lot of years to catch up on and I've put a lot on the back burner. Sometimes it gets to a point where I'm numb, but somehow the music has allowed me to express myself. There is a song on my new album dedicated to my mother called "Thinking of you". Music is my saviour but, at other times, a whip beating my back. I need to find a balance.

What am I going to discover in my trunk? Black and white, rich and poor, rock star and the guy that just wants to be at home with his family - there are lots of paradoxes. I have a split personality, this has been something that runs throughout my life. Even if it is disturbing, I'm looking forward to listening to my spirit and dealing with the pain. We'll see if I can put my two halves together.

Lenny's new single, released yesterday, is 'I belong to you'. He will be appearing at Britton Academy, London on 7 December.

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

Pop goes the writer

As recently as 10 years ago, fiction and pop music kept little company, but since Hornby's *High Fidelity* they've become firm friends. And what's this? Salman Rushdie himself is about to publish a rock epic. By James McNair

This newspaper's literary editor, Boyd Tonkin, recently wrote that "fiction's failure to register the impact of popular music on the post-Elvis generations must rank as one of the strangest dog-didn't-bark stories in postwar writing". Be that as it may, the preponderance of novelists currently seeking to redress the balance is striking. Salman Rushdie's forthcoming book, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, has been described by insiders as a rock epic partially inspired by U2; American writer Pagan Kennedy's new novel, *The Exes*, documents the rise of an alternative-rock band in Boston; and recent books by Irvine Welsh, Alan Warner and Robert Newman have all featured protagonists with more than a passing interest in their favourite bands. Add to this the fact that Iain Banks recently co-wrote songs for a BBC Radio adaptation of his 1990 novel, *Expedior Street*, and you get a sense that pop and fiction are rubbing shoulders with renewed enthusiasm.

I say with "renewed" enthusiasm because that crossover has always been there. If you opt for the broadest definition of "popular music", you could argue that even the way Kerouac drew inspiration from bebop in *On the Road* fits the bill. You might also assert, as Alan Warner does that the heady brew of sci-fi and hard rock featured in some of Michael Moorcock's Seventies novels never got the critical recognition it deserved. For Nick Hornby - whose own book, *High Fidelity*, is still regarded as one of the "pop novel" genre's milestones - the key work came later.

"I read Roddy Doyle's *The Commitments* when it came out, and it was a big deal for me," he says. "When I was growing up, popular culture was much more important to me than literary culture, so the idea that you could write about music that simply and directly, and still get serious reviews, was incredibly refreshing."

Moorecock and Doyle may have been amongst the trailblazers, but the unique and mutually distinctive ways in which Warner, Hornby and Kennedy have appropriated pop culture mark a further progression. In *Morvern's Collar*, admittedly less music-fixated than *High Fidelity* or *The Exes*, Warner takes a more impressionistic approach. The compilation tapes that the book's eponymous heroine listens to on her Walkman allow the author to drop a whole litany of band names without the faintest hint of a clang. The sheer artistry of the book also makes a nonsense of claims that pop culture references have no place in the serious literary work.

"The music on Morvern's tapes is a way for her to maintain contact with her dead boyfriend," Warner explains. "She's using it to get by after his suicide, and also to remind her of things past." There's a stark passage where Morvern decapitates her boyfriend's body wearing tinted swimming goggles and noseclips, her Walkman plugs firmly Selotaped into her ears as she listens to a specially prepared compilation. It's almost as though she's bandaging her senses.

Like Hornby's *High Fidelity*, Kennedy's *The Exes* uses its characters' pop and rock obsessions as an over-arching framework, while he explores the dynamics of their romantic and platonic relationships. The Exes are a band, and their non-ner - the brainchild of guitarist Lilly - alludes to their line-up featuring two pairs of ex-lovers. They're in indie Fleetwood Mac.

While on one level, the book pays homage to the alternative scene in

Allston, Boston, which Kennedy once immersed herself in, the former fanzine writer is quick to point out that there's more to the book than lip-gloss and sound checks: "I wanted to capture something that's going on socially, and not just in bands," she says. "The fact that most of us of a certain age now have a string of monogamous exes that we have to integrate into our lives is interesting, but I don't see anybody talking about it." She describes *The Exes* - which one critic dubbed "High Fidelity" - as "a perverse take on that issue".

It's Nick Hornby's view that, perhaps fearful of dating their books by mentioning, say, a Smiths album, British writers have generally been slower to make direct references to pop culture than their American counterparts. "In the 1980s, you wouldn't be surprised to see the name of a band in a Raymond Carver or Jayne Phillips novel," he says. "And I liked that, because it made me feel that they understood the world in which I was living. Lorrie Moore's *Who Will Run The Frog Hospital?*

came later, but there's a beautiful passage in that where, at a party, someone puts on "Little Green" by Joni Mitchell and one by one all the women stop talking and drift off. Most people can relate to that."

In *High Fidelity*, Hornby's lead character Rob owns Championship Vinyl, a second-hand record shop.

Rob and his employees' fixation with compiling their own tapes and listing charts for ever more ridiculous categories allows Hornby to take cross-referencing to its logical extreme. "When I was writing the book, I remember noticing that lists and charts were becoming part of the culture more and more," he says. When I ask him if he's noticed how those 100-best-albums-of-all-time features are still a staple of the music monthlies, he laughs. "A friend who's completely mad on music says his ideal magazine would just have lists of good stuff he hasn't heard yet. No journalism - just titles!"

While Hornby's obsessive males in *High Fidelity* are stereotypes, the male music-bore is a character with

whom most of us are familiar, and some of us may even have recognised in the mirror this morning. Those completists - those characters who must own every Kinks release regardless of its quality - tend to be biokers. Kennedy agrees: "I think males have a tendency to hoard, and that obsessive thing does seem to be gender-linked. I know a bunch of people who I think of as 'the collector guys', and they have to have these huge, warehouse-sized apartments just to house their records. I say, God bless them, though, because if I need to check some obscure song title I know who to call."

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the current literature/pop crossover is the extent to which boundaries seem to be blurring. When Alan Warner befriended Joe McAlinden of the Glasgow band Superhot, he opted to write the group into his latest novel, *The Sopranos*, and the book's preface juxtaposes a quote from McAlinden's song "Every Second Hurts" with one from *Wuthering Heights* (and that's Bron-

te's original, not Kate's single). Warner has also done readings at Superstar gigs, and with *The Sopranos* about to be made into a major film, there's talk of Superstar collaborating on the soundtrack.

Kennedy, too, has recently experienced life imitating art: "I asked some musician friends of mine to pretend to be the Exes at this reading I did, and now they've become a band in their own right," she laughs. "There's this bar in Jamaica Plains called the Midway Café, which I mention in the novel, and the weirdest thing was when they called us and asked us to play there. I gave the guy who owns the place the book and he got up and read the appropriate bit." If Kennedy seems to be enjoying all this, perhaps even using it to exorcise a few ghosts, it's understandable. At college, she was in a "camp-psychadelic" band called Planet Love.

Irvine Welsh collaborating with Primal Scream, and the half-of-mirrors effect experienced by Warner and Kennedy might seem like a lec-

ture in post-Modernism's wet dream, but Warner himself is quick to remind us of the legacy. "It's Mocock again, isn't it? He wrote this amazing limited edition piece in 1980 which based characters on the Sex Pistols and Lemmy from Motorhead, and in 1977 he released an album called *The Deep Fix*, and *The Deep Fix* were a band featured in his *Cornelius Quartet* books. That's why the thought of Iain Banks writing songs bores me. Mocock used that interplay between reality and fiction much more interestingly."

A more appetising prospect, perhaps, is Rushdie's *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*. It will be intriguing to see how a writer of his stature gets to grips with the pop genre, and to see whether this prompts other literary heavyweights to follow suit: *Captain's Corelli's Aka Sampler*, perhaps? A metaphysical take on Czech drum 'n' bass from Milan Kundera? Don't hold your breath.

The Exes by Pagan Kennedy is published by Simon & Schuster

Calm after a storm

CLASSICAL

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA / KURT SANDERLING RFH, LONDON

THE PHILHARMONIA Orchestra have a new "Honorary Member", the first since Otto Klemperer - which is to say that it means something. And yet, what percentage of the public at large will ever have heard of Kurt Sanderling? That's significant. That tells you something about his career, his priorities, his brand of music making. It's never been about him; his way has always been the quiet way. He's 86 now, and has the look - the big handsome face, the thick wavy hair - of an erstwhile matinee idol. The walk o the podium may look like it's getting longer, but once in place, once in command of the role, he knows best - that of empowering his players - the years visibly far away.

He seemed literally to stride the tempestuous opening tutti of Brahms' D minor Piano Concerto, a rejuvenated colossus pulling himself up to his full height, swaying with the music's prevailing winds. The force was in the colour - horns stopped down to their elemental low registers, long bows in the strings, substantial time as opposed to volume. With the pellicul second subject - the still centre, the eye of the storm, if you like - such was the luminosity, the rarefied quality of the pianissimo he achieved, it was as if we were somehow now inside the piece, hearing it from the composer's perspective. Pianist Andrés Schiff heard it that way, too. His reading was more about spirituality than physical storm and stress. The great double-trill and double-octave finales were never about to subject this Steinway to any significant seismic distress. Classical constraint and a sense of proportion governed all the theatrics. This was a performance that looked back more than it looked forward. The abiding nobility of the adagio (wonderfully at peace with itself) inhabited a world that both Schiff and Sanderling knew well from their Beethoven encounters - a world where the special relationship between keyboard and lower strings, between Schiff's reflective droplets of sound and the near-silence of pedal notes sunk almost too deep to hear took us to the threshold of romanticism, but not beyond it. Even the finale, bounding back to Bach with more than its customary relish, seemed to meet Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* coming the other way.

Sanderling's reading of Beethoven's Second Symphony required more than a little adjustment to earn now attuned to the leaner and meaner machinations of "historically aware" period performances. It's hard going back now to this well-insulated and, by implication, grander sound and manner. Beethoven that is clear, robust, purposeful, characterful (and in that the Philharmonia woodwinds were very much key players here) is always a pleasure. But when two trumpets collide in an explosive dissonance which blows the lid off the first movement coda, you wait to know about it from an 18th not 19th century perspective.

The Philharmonia Orchestra is currently in residence at the Royal Festival Hall

EDWARD SECKERSON



Clockwise from top left: Pagan Kennedy, Nick Hornby, Salman Rushdie and Alan Warner - taking on the fickle beast, pop culture

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Calm
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storm

Good old-fashioned Modernism

Cao Fonseca's paintings hark back to a tradition of order and rigour. What's more, writes Jay McInerney, they're beautiful

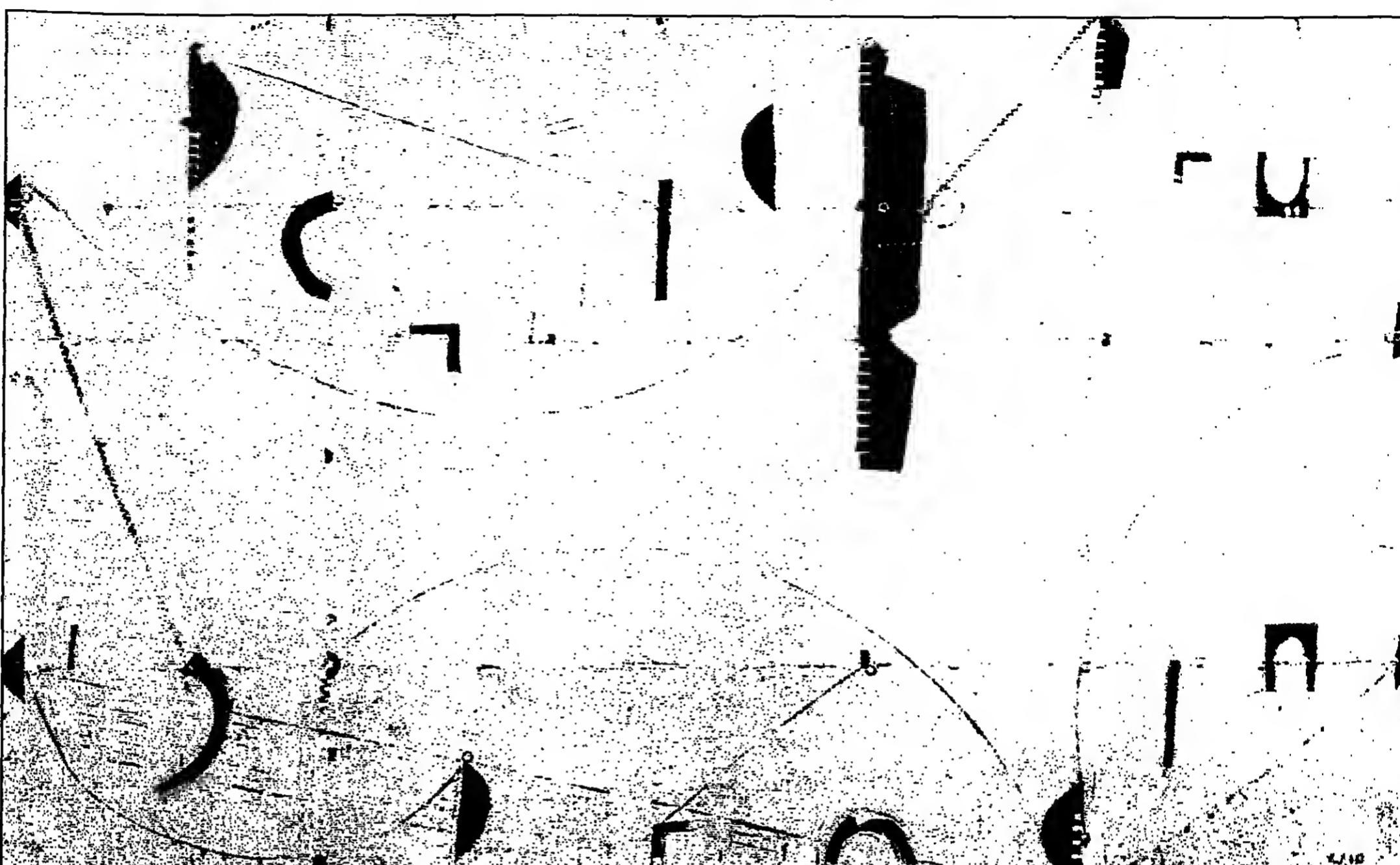
I have a friend who owns hotels. He also owns paintings, which I like to visit. A few years ago I spotted a new one hanging next to the Francis Bacon. It was a lyrical abstraction, too lushly painterly to be contemporary – and too cerebral, I thought, to be New York School. The surface was both flat and luminously translucent, sparsely populated with weird glyphs. "Is that a Klee?" I asked. If the canvas had sported a shred of newsprint or a gilded on Gauloises pack – any irony – I might have guessed early Motherwell. More figurative and I might have said Matisse. My host was pleased to set me straight. "Cao Fonseca," he said. "Dead?" I asked.

"Had dinner with him last night. He's younger than we are."

I knew a very nice girl named Fonseca who was living in London; and I like the port; the painter; I discovered when I met him a year later, is not related to the port house, although the girl, Isabel, author of *Bury me Standing* and paramour of Martin Amis, is his sister. This conversation took place in 1994, not long after the Whitney Biennial had once again declared painting dead, except in so far as it illustrated anti-patriarchal political principals. Matthew Barney's videos and Janina Anton's conceptual pieces were setting the tone for the downtown galleries. Wandering into Fonseca's one-man show at the Knoedler Gallery in 1996, I wondered if I should feel guilty for liking these self-contained and extraordinary – how to say it in late 20th-century English? – uh... beautiful canvases. Self-beautiful. I wondered if he was kidding. It was possible to imagine this enterprise as an exercise in appropriation. Several critics have done so. Hey kids, here's a pastiche of high Modernism. It could be commentary, as opposed to painting. I mean, I didn't want to be fooled, fear of missing the joke being possibly the most powerful art-related emotion of the 20th century.

Subsequently I met Fonseca at a dinner party, and I would bump into him here and there around town, as one does. He looks a bit like a well-fed Antonio Banderas. And while he often had his tongue in cheek and cut an entertaining figure at the dinner table, he also had something of the quality of an innocent abroad in the wilds of downtown Manhattan. In fact, when I first met him he had recently returned from Pietrasanta in Tuscany, where he spends five months of the year in ascetic exile in former sculptor's studio he's owned for 10 years. Like his canvases, he seems both worldly and a little bit naive; fleshly and ethereal at the same time. His sensibility was decidedly more classical than post-Modern. A big bearish figure with an unfashionably sunny mien, he was remarkably ignorant of the mores of the downtown art world, to the point that when I said, one night, as we do, that I'd love to visit his studio, he answered: "Yes, you keep saying that every time I see you." Brutal. Apparently they take you at your word in Pietrasanta or whatever planet he came from. At least he was smiling.

When I first arrived in New York in 1979, painting had recently come out of the closet again. After the radical puritanism of Conceptual art and Minimalism lost its novelty, a new generation was reviving the ancient craft of applying paint to canvas, just in time for a booming economy which would create a market for negotiable canvases as well as for the faces that painted them. The most prominent painters of this period seemed to be career-savvy and media-savvy. Andy Warhol being a kind of mentor figure to the scene. I retain these strobing, flashbulb images of the New York art world of that period. Frantic movie première-like



Cao Fonseca's 'Tenth Street Painting C97.5', acrylic on canvas, above, and the artist, below, in his studio in Pietrasanta, Italy, where he spends five months of the year in ascetic exile

openings at Mary Boone's gallery. Did I really see Julian Schnabel thumping his barrel chest like Tarzan at a David Salle show? I know I saw Keith Haring spray-painting his body in Annie Liebowitz's loft, and Jean-Michel Basquiat snorting cocaine in the Michael Todd Room of the Palladium, which he helped to decorate. And I definitely saw Keith Haring and Andy Warhol being chased down the street one night by a pack of photographers. For all the differences among the figures of the period, the painting tended to be representational, the expressionism figurative rather than abstract. Later in the decade came the Neo-Geo guys – Jeff Koons and Peter Halley and company, with their inflatable toys and their perfect surfaces, dressed in business suits like characters out of a Robert Llongo painting. These guys were kidding, which was the whole point.

Cao Fonseca missed all of these developments in New York; in fact, he says, not unaptly: "I missed the Eighties entirely." A native son, he grew up in Greenwich Village, the capital of bohemian America; his father, Uruguayan born Gonzalo Fonseca, was a highly regarded painter and sculptor. Cao and his three siblings were raised in a household of art and artists and multilingual dinner parties. "I always asked whether it was a one-kiss, a two-kiss or a three-kiss night – depending on where the guests halted from."

Just before graffiti moved from the street to the galleries, and painters started appearing on the pages of general interest magazines, Cao left New York for a long *Wanderjahr* in Europe. After a year at Brown University, he went to

Barcelona to study with the painter Augusto Torres, a friend of his father's, serving an old-world-style apprenticeship. For the next 14 years, Fonseca spent most of his time in Europe, painting and visiting museums – moving to Paris and Tuscany after Barcelona, all that time "working through some problems in painting". He moved from life studies, landscape and still life to a style that had become almost purely formal by the time he returned to Manhattan in May of 1992. He bought a loft on Tenth Street, amidst the noisy tenements of the barrio far to the east of the East Village; within a year he had his first show at the Charles Cowles Gallery in SoHo. The show was a quiet hit; the Metropolitan Museum bought one of the canvases. And the reviews were glowing, conveying a general sense of: "Where the hell did this guy come from?"

Without having planned to arrive in New York with a marketable style, he had developed the manner and the manner which continue to occupy him to this day. These paintings of the early Nineties seem to retain traces of representational imagery and of the vocabulary of Synthetic Cubism – a pair of eyes here, a keyboard there. Since 1992, the work has become ever more assured. His latest show at the uptown Knoedler gallery in the spring of 1998 was sold out before a painting was hung; the new work seems at the same time historically charged and *sui generis*. Not the least of the pleasures of Fonseca's work is that it revels in the joys of painting without seeming to be nostalgic. It's as if he devoted himself to the study of Modernism and continued the enterprise from the point where others had declared it

dead, skipping the last 40 years or so of art history and the post part entirely, carrying the vocabulary of Picasso and Gris and Klee down to the end of the century as if it were a continuous tradition.

As a novelist, I find myself jealous of the way in which, for all of its suggestiveness, Fonseca's work is about nothing but itself. I'm reminded of Pater's statement that poetry aspires to the condition of music, which I take to mean that wordsmiths can't help yearning for the realm of pure form. As it guards against associative or representational content, he titles his paintings with a number and their place of origin – either Pietrasanta or Tenth Street. The subject of Fonseca's painting is painting itself, although he's much more comfortable speaking about his work in terms of music. His East Tenth Street studio, which I did finally

visit, is a former carpenter's shop dominated by a grand piano. Canvases in various stages of completion hang on the walls: the first stage is a black and white grid which structures the later painting.

"After I lay out the proportions, which are based on the golden section..." He hesitates, dropping the large wooden compass he's been brandishing, then rushes over to the piano and starts playing what he explains is Bach's Suite No 3 in B minor: "The first three notes contain the entire genetic code of what the piece is going to be," he tells me, as he plays. "Bach is the total exploitation of the initial material. And I think paint like that. After I lay out the proportions, those proportions begin to suggest the form of the piece." He plays a little Mozart to propose a contrast. (And I'm thinking: sh! if this guy writes novels too I'm

going to have to kill him.) "In Mozart," he says, "you have melody and accompaniment; in Bach you don't have that. You have the braiding of melodies." He may be talking Bach but he looks pure Beethoven, tossing his dark mane and throwing his body into the music. I can imagine many visitors reaching for their cheque books at this point. The fact that I feel I am witnessing a not entirely spontaneous performance does not detract from my sense of the validity of the analogy. Fonseca apologises for the recital; he's aware that it might seem like a bit of schlock but he's also genuinely excited. "In music," he says, pausing at the keyboard, "you have a rhythm, an underlying order beneath the interplay of spontaneous forms."

Now he's up again, running around the studio, showing me the latest stages of composition. Once he's laid down the grid, Fonseca applies a densely layered field of paint. The shapes which seem to float above the surface of the finished painting are actually carved out of this background as another field of colour is applied. "They're not symbols, and they're not representational," he says, "but the shapes have to have a physical vitality." Indeed, some of them seem to move if you watch long enough. The interplay of these shapes is complicated by a series of linkages – usually lines inscribed with tools ranging from a pencil to a pasta cutter. "No one form is interesting to me," he says. "It's the interplay." Play being a useful concept, since for all their formal beauty and balance, the paintings can seem both whimsical and lyrical. One thing he insists is that they are not pictorial. On the other hand, my

wife, who recently ruined our finances buying me one of his paintings, claims that Fonseca told her the painting was inspired by the night sky of Pietrasanta and half a bottle of Chianti. I've had the painting six months and still keep stopping to look at it.

What draws me to Fonseca's painting is the sheer sensual gratification of the work, the almost romantic surfaces; what keeps me coming back, what keeps the work from being merely decorative, is the sense of classical balance and formal rigour. The latter reminds me of Robert Frost's remark that writing poetry without metre and rhyme is like playing tennis with the net down. Fonseca has an old-fashioned sense of innovation being possible only in relation to a clearly defined tradition. Like Frost and the baroque musicians he so admires, he believes in an underlying order.

He's unapologetic about having the old-time religion: the high Modern belief. "When you talk to a believer, you can't convince him God doesn't exist. He knows God exists." In the minimalist Manhattan art world, it seems that many people want to believe again. Those who aren't ready to convert needn't take the artist at his word. It's quite possible to view the paintings as subtle acts of appropriation, as a clever and ironic commentary on the history of Modernism even as you revel guilty in the sensual, formal pleasures of the surface.

Cao Fonseca is represented by Knoedler & Co, New York. This article first appeared in the autumn issue of 'Modern Painters' magazine. To order a copy direct, for £5 (p&p free), call 0181-986 4854 with Visa/Access card

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: SEAN HENRY



'Walking Man', work in progress Matthew Hollow

MEET EVERYMAN – isolated but coping as best he can. This one is putting his best foot forward, but none of them knows where he is going. All of them are more like you than you dare think.

Sean Henry is their creator. His signature everyman sculpture, a painted and patinated cast bronze wearing a donkey jacket and crumpled trouser, stands his ground and folds his arms across his chest, in a belligerent pose.

The Welsh poet David Hart mingled with everyman in Henry's London studio. The poems they inspired him to write are to be published in November in a book about Henry's work by the Italian Circolo Degli Artisti, shortly before a solo exhibition in Faenza.

Henry, aged 33, is winner of this year's Villiers David Art Prize, worth £2,000 for

way. There is an early everyman holding a pistol at arm's length. And there is the latest, still in soft clay, seated on a donkey with one arm outstretched, modelled on the early 16th century German sculpture "Christ Riding on a Donkey" by Parmigianino.

Henry is undecided how to model the fingers of this one. He flips two of them up into a beatific gesture. Then he flips them down. Whatever he eventually decides, the fingers are unlikely to point the way.

He says: "I try to depict some essential truths. My figures are often on the edge of action – passive, but acutely aware of their surroundings, as well as their inability to affect or change them."

Everyman, and not only

Henry's figures are reminiscent of Ray Richardson's paintings of dense, muscular men in T-shirts leading bull terriers on leashes, Peter Howson's threatening male silhouettes and Stephen Corry's paintings of strong men standing stock still on staircases, curling their lip at a world they can barely comprehend. An investigation into their origins would no doubt hit upon Josef Herman's bold monochromes of miners.

And, of course, Giacometti's best-foot-forward sculptures. Henry's show at the Air Gallery last summer was called "Up Against It" – a title that sums up everyman as he perceives him. "He is mass man," he says, "quirky, powerful, but not responsible for his actions."

The irony is that mass

man – everyman – is out of date. You cannot buy donkey jackets as fashion wear, these days. The only men that still wear them are building workers. The folded arms of his "Donkey" everyman, hugging his donkey jacket, are, he explains, "holding on to the past".

"He knows he's foolish," he says, "he knows he's an ass." But "he's on his own, he's got to deal with it".

When Henry delivered one of his 32-inch tall "Donkeys" to its purchaser, a smart London office, he glanced back at him as he left and thought he heard him say: "You're not going to leave me here, are you?"

If Henry's sculptures are

to earn a permanent place in art history it will be because of their mythic, iconic status – the image of an endangered species. The mass – the uneducated

working class – has become a threatened minority. Everyman no longer has political clout. He has been reduced to adopting an all-purpose, muscular stance against the outside world.

But, as creators such as Henry know well, the divine courses through everyman. What sculpture will follow his divine everyman riding upon a donkey? It is a hard act of creation to follow.

Sean Henry has had eight solo shows in the past 10 years and has exhibited in group shows in Britain, Italy, the United States and Australia. Prices: £1,500–£18,000. He is represented by Davies and Tooth, 32 Dover Street, London W1 (0171-409 1516). David Hart's "Setting the Poem to Words" has just been published by Five Seasons Press at £3.50

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Popping pills can cause you real pain

If you've got a headache your first thought may be to take a painkiller, but that could be the worst possible thing to do. By Annabel Ferriman

When Wendy Hill first started taking the painkilling drug ergotamine for her headaches, she noticed that the label on the bottle said that she could not take more than six tablets in a week. "I said to my doctor: 'But there are seven days in a week. I cannot possibly manage a day without one,'" she says.

Ms Hill, a 54-year-old secretary from Oxford, is one of the 2 million people in this country who suffer from daily headaches. Her headaches start at about 2am, and last until about 10pm, leaving her with only four headache-free hours in every day.

Although Wendy's doctor warned her not to take ergotamine too frequently, Ms Hill found herself increasing the dose. Yet her headaches did not improve. If anything they got worse, so, in the hope of improvement, she switched to a different analgesic, a mixture of paracetamol and codeine. She was not meant to take more than eight a day, but sometimes she exceeded that dose.

"I was taking eight, day after day, but because I slept badly, I could not always remember when the 24-hour period began - whether I had counted it from 2am or 3am. The result is that the patient gets into a vicious circle, in which he or she tries to cure headaches by taking more of the substance that is causing them."

"There are several things that can cause the central nervous system to become more sensitive to painful stimuli. The frequent use of analgesics is one of them," he adds. "It seems to be becoming an increasing problem, which is why we are taking it very seriously," says Ann Rush, director of the Migraine Trust, a charity set up to help sufferers through its research, education and support programme.

"There is a tragedy of suffering here," says Dr Peter Goadsby, consultant neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen's Square, London.

"I routinely see people who are taking eight, 10 or 12 tablets a day. These are people who have an easily preventable condition. But they do not know that they need help."

The condition, also known as "medication misuse headache", usually starts in a small way, with people taking painkillers to combat frequent headaches.

They then increase the dose, and start taking them as a preventive measure, before a headache occurs.

New government regulations

that society. Any British system must teach the three Rs, yet our rates of illiteracy are among the highest in Europe. More than half of all pupils leave school without obtaining three or more GCSEs at grades A-C after their average of 15,000 hours of schooling. These facts suggest that at the bottom end the system is not working and David Blunkett is quite right to put the matter at the top of his list of priorities.

Perhaps you are happy with the current emphasis on exam results as the sole criterion for success, and applaud taking this to the beginning of formal education. You may even endorse "baseline assessments" for all five-year-olds, as Blunkett recently did - but why stop there? Why not begin after birth, with neonatal assessments of neonatal capacities, and annual check-ups of mental development?

Faced with a blank piece of paper, most of us would accept the need to write down (if we can) "teaching the three Rs". The fundamental goal of all education systems must be to provide future citizens with the basic mental and emotional kit to fulfil their potential within

the system, starting from scratch. What existing subject areas, values and teaching methods will you reproduce, and what will be your new ones?

Where my Fantasy Blueprint differs from Blunkett's is in its overall goals. I suspect that it is more important to him to create high-achieving graduates than to create individuals likely to fulfil their unique potential. Likewise, producing law-abiding, well-socialised citizens is more important to him than creating emotionally literate, insightful young people who are likely to have satisfying intimate relationships. With a few exceptions (mostly Scandinavian), government education departments throughout the developed world exist principally to create well-programmed, obedient workers.



The pain of headaches may be unbearable, but turning to pills too often can make the condition worse

SAFETY FIRST: HOW TO TACKLE PAIN

- Despite the bewildering variety of over-the-counter headache remedies, almost every product contains one of three drugs: paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin.
- Paracetamol is considered the safest because it does not cause irritation to the gastro-intestinal tract or bleeding in the stomach. But remember it is dangerous in overdose. Be aware that you could be taking it in other medicines, such as remedies for colds, flu and blocked sinuses and don't let your dose creep up.
- Ibuprofen, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, is considered the second safest because it has fewer side-effects.
- Aspirin is the least safe because it can precipitate asthma, kidney failure and bleeding from the stomach. The elderly are particularly prone to its side effects.
- People with migrainous headaches should avoid cheese, red wine and citrus fruits.
- If you are taking analgesics more than twice a week, tell your doctor. You could become dependent.

banning the sale of aspirin and paracetamol from general outlets in packs of more than 16, which came into effect this month and which were designed to prevent impulse purchases. It may also have the effect of prompting those who are overusing analgesics to seek help.

What can be done to tackle the problem? "These patients have no option but to withdraw," says Dr

Steiner. "You have to spend a lot of time with them explaining what is happening, and warning them that, unless they give up, they will be just the same in 10 years' time, or worse off, because of the adverse effects."

Unfortunately, they do not all get better when they stop the analgesics. "If you take 100 people, and stop them overusing analgesics, more than 40 will get completely

better, while another group will have some amelioration, and some won't see any immediate benefit," says Dr Goadsby.

"People who overuse analgesics fall into two groups: those with no underlying headache problem, who get better when the analgesic is stopped, and those who have an underlying headache problem, who don't get better when they stop."

The secret in treating the second group is to get them to take a good headache-preventive drug, such as a tricyclic antidepressant, or an anti-epileptic drug. The patients are not necessarily depressed or having seizures, but seem to find these drugs helpful as preventive measures.

"Regular use of analgesics blocks the useful effect of preventive measures, however, which is why these patients have to stop taking their analgesics before they can see the benefit."

Wendy Hill was given a tricyclic antidepressant to help her to sleep. She breaks the pills up into fragments (otherwise she feels groggy the next day), and takes part of one, if she has not been able to sleep for four or five nights.

The best answer, according to Dr Goadsby, lies in prevention. "If you start taking analgesics more than twice a week, you should put your hand up and tell someone. It is much easier to stop the problem earlier, rather than later."

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

WHY DO contraceptive pills come in packets of 21? The man who invented the contraceptive pill decided women liked seeing a period every month. So they produced a system that induces a bleed every 28 days. Bleeding that occurs when you take the pill is artificially induced by hormones - it is not a true menstrual bleed. The pill could easily have come in packets of 35, which would produce a period every six weeks, or 65, which would cause bleeding every nine weeks.

Some women take three packets consecutively, followed by a one-week break, and this means they get only four periods a year. This system of "tri-cycling" is effective and causes no harm.

MY MOTHER had an underactive thyroid gland and I think I may be developing the same thing. What symptoms should I look out for? Weight gain, constipation, dry skin, hair loss, feeling cold, puffiness around the eyes, depression, general tiredness and slowing down. But if the thyroid gland is not producing sufficient hormones, it usually begins slowly and insidiously, with vague symptoms of tiredness. Women are affected by hypothyroidism much more than men, and thyroid problems, both underactive and overactive, often run in families. Sadly, most people who are overweight, myself included, do not have underactive thyroid glands.

MY FOUR-month-old son has had a sticky eye since he was born. Can anything be done about it? Your son has a blocked tear duct, the tiny channel that drains tears away from the eye. It's quite a common problem. The good news is that the duct almost always opens up without any intervention from doctors. Just keep the eye clean with cotton wool and clean water.

HOW MUCH effect does diet have on cholesterol levels? Most people can reduce raised cholesterol levels by up to 10 per cent by cutting down on their intake of fat. Drugs known as statins can reduce cholesterol levels more effectively than dietary changes, with hardly any side-effects. Although cholesterol causes heart disease, it has to be seen as part of a wider picture, including smoking, exercise, blood pressure, obesity and genetic factors.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk

In a perfect school, this is what children would learn

OLIVER JAMES

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



Why not begin after birth, with assessments of neonatal capacities?

Since educational success so heavily determines subsequent career options, neither schools nor parents can afford to ignore the imperative to get the good exam results upon which the whole system is judged. This priority of cognitive over emotional skills is found in every aspect of the system.

There are some among New Labour who see the commitment to creating extra nursery school places as an opportunity to improve emotional literacy among parents. A recent publication (*The psychology of nursery education*, edited by AM Sandier, Karnac Books) showed just how this could be done, based on decades of experience at the Anna Freud Centre in London.

But such enlightened thinking faces strong opponents. Nearly all academic and clinical psychologists largely ignore emotions and motivations and focus on thoughts and social skills. Likewise, increasingly ambitious parents and all mainstream politicians are liable to regard small children as computers in search of the right

programme, rather than as existential entities.

By contrast, teachers are often fighting to make education less exam-obsessed and more concerned with emotional well-being. For their pains, they are slagged off by the right-wing press and parents for not trying to extract every last ounce of exam juice from their annual crop. Questioning of exams by teachers is dismissed as an attempt to escape measures of how effective their teaching is.

But what if emotional outcomes were taken into account? Imagine a system in which independent assessment was made of the emotional well-being of children at each year's end. League tables of schools could include rates of mild and severe depression among the pupils, and records of eating disorders, suicide attempts and pupils cautioned or convicted of crimes.

The objection is easy to envisage: surely these have nothing to do with schools, are purely the consequence of genes and parental care? So

they are, to some extent. It would be pernicious to add mental illness and criminality to the already lengthening list of ailments for which teachers are held responsible. But the real purpose would be for parents and politicians to be forced to make a proper audit of the real costs and benefits of the present system, by including the emotional price.

It is so hard to imagine such an audit because we completely take for granted that schools are exam factories whose main purpose is to prepare children for the workplace, a rehearsal for the real factory. Although this is barely conceivable, education really in the best interests of children rather than advanced capitalism, it would prioritise issues that are currently left to chance.

Off the top of my head, here are a few examples of "things they should have taught you at school": beware of marrying young; pure talent is rarely the key to career success - high motivation and low cunning are much more important; lying is an indispensable element of both professional and personal relationships; the pursuit of power, wealth and status are prime motivators in most people's lives, despite that achieving them does not bring happiness or fulfillment.

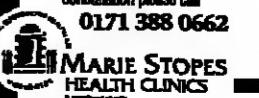
But perhaps it is asking too much to expect government to pay for one of its agencies to expose the double-thinking truth behind the official rhetoric of the rules of adult life - that in many respects, we live in Orwell's Oceania. More realistic might be to hope that every school devotes more time to basic emotional literacy classes. Of the many initiatives in this field, David Blunkett could do worse than turn to a published explication of the role of personal and social relationships curricula by a retired teacher, Robert McKee (Let's Ask The Children, published by First and Best in Education, Northants).

He struggled against the odds during the Eighties to introduce effective programmes of self-development, but was stymied by the reluctance of schools to give it priority within the timetable - there were too many exams to be passed. His modest 56-page treatise contains more sense than any government White Paper on education and its implementation would do to moderate the emotional damage caused by existing educational priorities.

The paperback edition of Oliver James's book, *Britain On The Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared with 1950, Despite Being Richer*, is published by Arrow, price £7.99.

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MEDIA

Sky Wars kick off this week with the launch of Rupert Murdoch's digital television service – but the competition will be tough, so Sky's bosses are welcoming all the digital media friends they can get, and one of them, at least, is a rather surprising choice. By Jane Robins

Liz and Mark's satellite love-in

Mark Booth and Elisabeth Murdoch are on a mission to change the television habits of Britain. The task would be daunting enough for anyone, but these two are American – and if they are to succeed they not only need to understand British culture very quickly; they also need to change it.

Booth is the boss of BSkyB and Murdoch, daughter of Rupert, runs its Sky Networks division. Together they are in the business of persuading us that the age of television as a force of national cohesion is over: that we no longer wish to sit down all together on a Monday night to watch *EastEnders*, and that, instead, we are ready to embrace a world of hundreds of channels. In fact, they want Britain to overtake America as the world's most sophisticated provider of digital television – and "the project" starts this Thursday, with the launch of Sky Digital.

But they have a problem with the Sky brand. A decade ago, the company brought multi-channel television to Britain by selling ugly great satellite dishes door-to-door on housing estates, and delivering television that was cheap and largely poor quality. The consequence has been a strong class division over satellite, with the middle classes still smug about dishes. So far, fewer than a third of British homes have gone multi-channel.

Booth and Murdoch are acutely aware that Sky's appeal needs to move out of the council estates, and into the leafy suburbs. The company needs to shed its image as a service for football fanatics, and become attractive to everyone.

It makes sense, then, that both Sky executives have recently taken to praising the BBC, perhaps hoping that some of its blue-chip brand image will rub off – that Sky will gain credibility by association.

Rupert Murdoch's Sun may lambast the Beeb, and call for an end to the licence fee. But Sky television, in which he also has a controlling interest, has lately become the Corporation's best friend.

"The BBC's endorsement of this is good," says Booth. "And the BBC is better today than it has ever been. Its sports, comedies and doc-

umentaries are better than ever." Anyone who buys Sky Digital on 1 October will immediately recognise the status of the BBC on the system. BBC1 and BBC2 are the first two channels on the Electronic Programme Guide, which provides the gateway to the 75 television channels, 48 pay-per-view channels, and 44 audio channels which are up and running already.

Murdoch looks perplexed at the suggestion that Sky might be trying to hijack some of the BBC's brand image for itself. You imagine that she's dying to say "as if", and would do so if the interview were being conducted in California rather than at Sky's HQ in a grim industrial park somewhere off the M4.

"We're very impressed with their

for Manchester United. Would it be better for Sky's brand image if Elisabeth were not so prominently associated with the company? Was her photoshoot for *Tatler* a bid to establish herself as a different sort of Murdoch?

She retreats into the sofa, plainly bored of this sort of question. "I'm my own sort of Murdoch," she says quietly.

But the name alone is enough. It has already fuelled a suggestion that there is something a little sinister about digital television. Once your TV goes interactive, it will record your viewing habits. Rupert Murdoch, the propaganda goes, will be watching you.

Both Booth and Murdoch are quick to dismiss the notion. "We can't

Sky strategy, and that the sums mean that, all the time the subsidised deals bring in new customers, Sky benefits.

But the incident was indicative of the aggression behind Sky's bid to get to first place in the digital war. The company needs to win as many customers as possible, as quickly as it can, before its rivals, ONdigital and the cable companies, come into the market.

This week, Sky will exploit the fact that it is launching its brand of digital first, with a £50m advertising campaign on television, radio, and posters. Until 15 October, this will aim to get people used to the concept of digital television; then, says Booth, the "features and benefits" offensive will start – detailing the channels and programmes on offer, and the cheapness of the subscription deals.

Last month, the aggressive marketing looked as if it might turn nasty, as ONdigital's boss, Stephen Grabiner, accused Booth of saying Sky could finish off ONdigital at birth. A few weeks later, after further animosity, Peter Rogers, the head of the Independent Television Commission, asked the digital bosses to calm down.

Booth now seems to have softened his line. It's "absurd" to think that Sky can kill off ONdigital, he says. And he talks only of the relative attractions the two services are offering – being sure to point out that ONdigital's 30 channels are a mere subset of Sky's 200.

But, back to the question of culture. Will the British want digital at all, or will they resist the pressure of a multi-billion-pound industry to make them change their viewing habits? Booth reaches for two television zappers. One is the old-style all-black analogue zapper; the other the big new Sky digital contraption, with colour-coded buttons and multiple options. Don't you think, he says, that people will want this? That they'll want to show it off to their neighbours?

The immediate reality, anyhow, is not about spying; it's about money. Many hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent by Sky on the infrastructure for digital, and on subsidising set-top boxes and cheap subscription deals.

A few weeks ago, facing City analysts, Booth said he didn't mind spending a ton of cash because it would deliver a ton of subscribers, and the share price tumbled. He says he has no regrets about the statement, and maintains that the City was simply slow to understand the

subscription deals.

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subscription deals.

This is the American attitude coming out. In fact, the elusive middle classes, whom Sky is desperate to attract to their channels, are not prone to boasting about the size of their gadgetry. It's far more likely that they'll sign up to the digital age quietly, and keep the zapper tucked away in a drawer.

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Tarzan: the sequel

You can't keep a good man down for long, and Michael Heseltine is now applying his brand of energy to the world of publishing. By Ed Shelton

Michael Heseltine is not a man to embrace retirement or idleness with a happy heart. So when his political career came to an abrupt halt with the 1997 election, he immediately turned his energies to his publishing company Haymarket. Now, deeply ensconced in business, the lion is roaring again.

The departure of four Haymarket Publishing executives last week, on a New York-bound Jumbo jet, provides a clue as to what Heseltine is planning. The four are off to start a US edition of the company's trade paper, *PR Week*.

The US venture coincides with the launch of a new fortnightly Haymarket title covering IT training, a spectacular 30th birthday edition of the flagship title *Campaign*, and city gossip of imminent acquisitions in the Far East. With Heseltine himself back in charge, it is hardly the same Haymarket that has for years cultivated a position as the sleepiest, though highly profitable, specialist publisher in town.

Michael Heseltine faced a choice after losing office last year – stay active in politics, take a handful of company directorships, or return to the company that has been the basis of

his fortune. He opted for the latter and has, by all accounts, thrown himself into it with a vengeance.

"He is here nearly every day, and is very ambitious for the company," says one of his senior colleagues. "It's all go, go, go," says another. "He is totally leading the charge."

Heseltine says he opted to rejoin Haymarket simply because of his ownership of it: "There is no point working for someone else if you already have a large shareholding in your own company." He seems genuinely excited by the opportunity to advance the company further.

Haymarket's original success was built largely on producing trade titles that looked as swish as the best consumer ones, and pioneering the recruitment advertising market. There was even some critical success: in the Sixties, the company produced the men's consumer title *Town*, which many believe was ahead of its time, with its focus on male fashion.

But with Heseltine away in the Eighties, the company was less dynamic and, although a profitable stable of 40 titles was developed, there was none of the same pioneering zeal. Colleagues say Heseltine is now appears determined to return it to its former pre-eminence.

One well-placed colleague says Heseltine wants to "double the size of the company in 10 years". Heseltine does not deny the claim, saying that it is "realistic", and accepting that he is "very ambitious" for the company.

He did not waste much time on his arrival. There was a reorganisation that saw the departure of the chief executive, Paul Camp, and the recruitment of an ex-colleague of Heseltine's from Whitehall, Alan Kemp, as business development director. Heseltine also bought more shares from his fellow directors, taking his family holding to 78 per cent of the company. He is now a hands-on member of the team, liaising with editors and developing ideas. Nicholas Coleridge, managing director at Condé Nast, says: "I think he really relishes being back in publishing, and seems to be very well informed. The editors like to have him around, as he brings a real buccaneering dash to the company."

The New York move is his first major one – and a brave one. Haymarket's research suggests that there is a niche in the US market for *PR Week* – and the company has

staked more than a million pounds on its belief. The Far East market is also being explored, with some reports of Heseltine being interested in investing in China. He will not be drawn on such matters, but says, broadly, that there are opportunities in the Far East to copy the success that the company has had here – by producing high-quality, specialist publications on the Internet and into digital TV.

Heseltine says he will not float Haymarket, and so must keep generating profits to finance further borrowing in order to expand. "We are negotiating in a range of fields to

build on the strengths we have got," he says.

The company is considering UK launches for new titles in each of the four divisions: consumer, business, medical and marketing. Kemp expects the company to invest "several millions" a year in launches: "A much faster rate than in the past".

He also adds that there will also be expansion on the Internet and into

point of working so hard, and perhaps risking his health, to add more millions to the value of the company. His colleagues think it unlikely that he is simply fattening it up to sell it.

The accepted theory seems to be that Heseltine wants to make his mark in publishing, in the way that he did in politics. "He is a showman, and he wants to go out in a blaze of glory," says an insider.

It is also, of course, worth noting that his son, Rupert, is one of the four executives on the plane to New York; the idea of starting a media dynasty may appeal.



Industry insiders say that Michael Heseltine's hands-on leadership at Haymarket Publishing is revitalising the company

Geraint Lewis

Blonde ambition

Mariella Frostrup has not only got her own prime time show on Channel 5 but intends to call all the shots. By Darius Sanai

SHE IS deep-voiced, bold and occasionally bolshy, and she wants to publicise herself. So, three months ago, Mariella Frostrup formed her own production company, and, because names are a vital part of a brand's image, she called it Brazen Husky.

It was a smart move from a woman whose intelligence and guile have always sat uncomfortably with efforts by the tabloid press to categorise her as yet another interchangeable, Met Bar blonde.

Ms Frostrup has, over the past few months, been in the news for an alleged romance with Chris Evans (false, say both sides), for being among the candidates to succeed Barry Norman on the BBC's *Film 96* (still a possibility), and for being chosen to front a new Channel 5 talk show at prime time, 7.30 on a Friday evening – a big change from her last, Sunday-morning-with-hangover slot.

Almost overlooked, though, is Brazen Husky (chief executive and sole employee: Ms Frostrup), a machine through which she will be able to create and control her own brand.

At a time when television channels are proliferating and budgets on the big four are constricting, industry insiders agree that the importance of creating a coherent, saleable brand for yourself is becoming increasingly vital. "Look at the brands people like Noel Edmonds, Des Lynam and Chris Evans have built for themselves," says Mark Borkowski, a celebrity PR. "You know what you get with those names. You have to look at what you have, build on it, and recognise your weaknesses."

In her Portobello Road HQ, an airy studio with plenty of sofas and colourful coffee mugs, Mariella Frostrup is stretched out on a sofa, talking about her new company. "It's not empire building or a ginger, Planet 24-type thing," she husks.

The Irish-Norwegian takes a drag from one of many Marlboro Lights. Her new company, she says, is more to do with being a control freak. "It's to do with the culmination of eight years in TV. I've always written my own material and I wanted

to start getting credit – or the blame, whatever."

Ms Frostrup refuses to identify her brand image – "it would mean thinking about myself for more than a minute, which I couldn't bear" she says, stalking to the kitchenette in search of another cigarette.

Soon, though, she does define herself by default. "I've never been a bubbly blonde, I'm really bad-tempered," she says. "Women on TV are seen as interchangeable, whether they're newscasters, presenters or entertainment. And if you're blonde (which she isn't quite) more mousy, as she's the first to admit you get lumped together: a herd of cattle, a flock of sheep, a bunch of blondes. I think that's the word for it: a bunch."

And that is, partly, where the production company comes in. "There comes a point when you just want to control your own life. And people are less likely to come to you with a proposal for some sort of nonsensical drivel if you're known to be in charge of writing and producing your own programmes."

"You have so much more control over what you do, from the guests down to the sofa fabric in the studio."

As a former bubbly blonde who has fought hard to be recognised for what she is – an intelligent and refreshingly natural TV presenter who happens to be an attractive woman – she is wary of anything to do with tabloid television. The plethora of new channels may give opportunities to people wanting to break in to the industry, "but unless you want to present a show for £2.50, it's not something to do".

There is one proviso about the Mariella brand, though: asked if she would be where she is today if she didn't have a nice face, she replies instantly: "No, if I didn't have a nice face I would be respected but unemployed. That's an indictment of the sexism in the system."

Happy though she seems to be with Frostrup on Friday, which will see the customary array of guests being barked at charmingly and she, she insists, unobtrusively, she hasn't



Mariella Frostrup, busy building her own brand Emma Boam

managed to get complete control: "I'd never have chosen that name," she says with a genuine cringe. "I'm not the point of the show, the guests are."

Which points to an inherent contradiction in personality branding. Ms Frostrup says she sees herself as a journalist, a conduit between guest and viewer, her own experiences (she left school at 15 and her intelligence is of the streetwise kind) lending her a populist touch. But to succeed she has to prove to the point of the show, to prove to the powers paying her that the Mariella brand is both unique and essential, or else they could get someone else to do her job.

A publicist asked to "brand" Ms Frostrup once called her "the thinking man's crumpet" – which can describe anyone from Anna Ford to Francesca Annis. If Ms Frostrup succeeds in intelligently bringing the likes of Damien Hirst and Gilbert and George to the attention of people who would otherwise only have read about them to the tabloids – then she'll be a rare brand indeed.

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Doom, gloom and the mundane qualities of life sell as a recession looms. By Harriet Green

Welcome to the glum world of advertising

YOU WON'T laugh and nor will you fancy the actors. No, you won't do either of those things if you watch the new advertisements for Pearl insurance, but you may feel deep depression coming on.

In one advertisement, an overweight woman with bags under her eyes asks her father: "Do you want to be buried or cremated?" In another, a man whose wife has left him is warned by his teenage daughter that "the kitty is almost empty". And in a third, a boy tells his mother that she should marry her rich boyfriend. The reason? He needs the cash to go to college.

Each advertisement ends with at least one of the characters gazing – horrified – into the distance. And that's presumably what the viewers at home are doing, too.

But Pearl is not alone. Plenty of other advertisements these days feature hapless characters with a miserable future. Death – if not in fact present in all the glum ads – looms large. It fits fits neatly alongside the increasingly gloomy newspaper and television forecasts of imminent recession.

Virginia Valentine, head of cultural analysts Semiotic Solutions, believes the trend towards gloom represents a backlash against last summer's rosy glow of New Labour and the cult of Diana which gripped the country soon after it.

"We started thinking about ourselves as warm and loving, and being in touch with our feelings. But now there's a cold, hard edge of cynicism coming out."

But hang on. Even if that's true, shouldn't advertising steer clear of doom? Commercials aren't the same as editorial and they should keep us entertained – shouldn't they? Not according to the men behind Pearl's campaign. "Advertising doesn't have any duty other than to put the client's case in the most effective way," says Rupert Howell, of Pearl's advertising agency Howell Henry Chaldecott Lucy. It does not have to cheer them up in bad times.

His partner Chris Satterthwaite expands: "Recession is bound to

have an impact on the way people look at the world." But the ads are "not more gritty than life itself", he adds.

Adverts for Sony Playstation provide another startling example of the glum approach. One kicks off with a shot of a scruffy, malnourished youth going to work. "In the day I do my job," he says, the corners of his mouth turned down. But at night, he reveals, his world changes – and at this point, we see him lying on a bed in his underpants – because at night he can happily play computer games.

Other characters in the Playstation ads include a fat man surrounded by takeaway cartons, two small-time crooks and a glam transvestite. In each case, the only thing that makes life worth living is the Sony Playstation. "At least I can say I have lived," proclaims the scruffy youth.

The advertisements were masterminded by one of advertising's most famous creatives, Trevor Beattie of TBWA – the man who shot to fame with an altogether jollier campaign, the "Hello boys" poster for Wonderbra. Why he turned so miserable?

"Our ad is about the mundane quality of everyday life," he says. You can escape from that with Playstation. If we had shown a glamorous life there would have been no need

to escape from it. Life can be dull." Volkswagen, too, has subscribed to the gloom, with stark press advertisements featuring disaffected women whose only security in life is their VW Golf. Their mood is sombre – the weather is terrible, the women are far from glamorous.

"American gloss is wearing a bit thin. It's a backlash," says Ed Edwards of BMP DDB, the agency behind the VW ads. "Look at the television documentaries about traffic wardens or the Lakeside shopping centre. That's what viewers want – real people."

And the trend seems set to continue. Levi's turned its back on a decade of glamorous advertising last month to produce an advert in which Kevin the hamster keeled over, dead.

But it can't go on for ever. Sue Keane, a cultural psychologist, reckons that adverts are bound to brighten up sooner or later. "If we move into recession advertisers will have to switch to a more optimistic approach. In deep recession brands have to provide a constant ray of sunlight, or people will trade down to own labels which are cheaper."

"Our ad is about the mundane quality of everyday life," he says. You can escape from that with Playstation. If we had shown a glamorous life there would have been no need



The message in the Pearl ads is pure gloom

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NEW FILMS

CUBE (15)

Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Mancuso Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicola de Boer
This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea – a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic hooby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence – but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a GCSE study guide.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

DEEP RISING (16)

Director: Stephen Sommers
Starring: Treat Williams, Fanke Janssen, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Head
Ramsbuckle B-movie-style thriller about a cruise liner attacked by a mysterious and savage underwater monster. Treat Williams copes mainly with the abysmal dialogue, and our own Jason Flemyng gets to fire automatic weapons at big slimy beasts, which is not the sort of thing that an English actor gets to do every day of the week.
West End: Odeon West End

SECRET DEFENSE (PG)

Director: Jacques Rivette
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziwillowicz, Gregoire Colin (subtitles)
The first 90 minutes of Rivette's icy, elegant new film are brilliant and hypnotic: Sylvie (the transfixing Sandrine Bonnaire) is a scientist whose brother sneaks into her laboratory to steal her gun and reveal some devastating news – be known who killed their father. Sylvie tries to prevent him from taking action, but is snatched by the friction between her indecision, and her inclination for revenge. Rivette's camera doesn't miss a thing – the film's most impressive sequence comes when it simply follows Sylvie on a train journey, recording every detail in an attempt to amplify her feelings of awkwardness. The downside of the director's watchfulness is that any exposition which surfaces during the action feels

clumsy; dialogue which is needed to clarify motivation or relationships is mechanical.

West End: *Renoir*

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott
There's Something About Mary is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed months in advance by the picture's trailer:

Ben Stiller is heartbreakingly as the nerdy Ted, who ruins his big Prom Night date with the local beauty, Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 13 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he's got out of his former love's date.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Fulham Road, Fulham Road

WOO (15)

Director: Daisy VS Mayer
Starring: Jade Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin
Jade Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed *Boyz N the Hood*) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but, more depressingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. **West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BABYMOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Angela Lauren Smith), a "babymother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter. **West End:** Ritzy Cinema

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Memento, Phoenix Cinema

CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)

Mike Van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal won this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been. **West End:** Curzon Mayfair

COUSIN BETTE (15)

Balzac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but *Dr Dolittle* proves that his talents are surprisingly playful. **West End:** Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. **West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

KISSING A FOOL (15)

Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer, best known as Ross in *Friends*. **West End:** Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weisz, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done. **West End:** Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

This cerebral portrait of a sensual situation – the club scene of the early 1980s – is dry and a little sad. Chloe Sevigny, who has the look of a wounded animal, is especially good. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel

Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, automated ride. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes \$500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. **West End:** Gate Gating Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

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LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in this first feature from the acclaimed and adventurous experimental filmmaker John Maybury. Among the film's many technical accomplishments are the blurred, twisted and grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh storms that strongly evoke the artist's work. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (12)

The first full-length product of Warners' new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks – and courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds – even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. **West End:** UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's World War II drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis – is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire's Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

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THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

In David Mamet's intricate thriller, Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) develops a top secret formula. His boss (Ben Gazzara) is demanding his signature to secure loyalty, but an enigmatic new acquaintance (Steve Martin) warns Joe that he is about to be swindled. Who should he trust? This is a playful exercise in twisting plausibility, and expectations, until they seize up. **West End:** Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in their first big-screen outing, involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. **West End:** Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

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THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

DARYL ZERO is the world's greatest private investigator – a man who can tell you what you had for breakfast and tease out your darkest secrets within minutes of meeting you. Unfortunately, he is also a recluse, who only engages with the real world when there's a case to crack. As played by Bill Pullman (*Left* in *Zero Effect*, Daryl is as charming as he is unshinged: you catch his speed-freak eyes twinkling and his mouth contorting into a lopsided smile and you know that the

monster inside him is only a breath away from combusting.

ABC Swiss Centre, London WC2 (0171 902 0403) 6.10pm, 8.40pm

Whatever you think of *Apocalypse Now*, it's to be experienced in a cinema before you can truly pass judgement. Coppola's bombastic, excessive, even insane excursion into "heart of darkness" territory boasts a kilimazie cast (Martin Sheen, Frederic Forrest, Robert Duvall, Marlon Brando) and moments of chilling clarity amidst the chaos.

NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.10pm

Pop Tim Perry

JUST THREE years ago, the youthful quintet BR5-48 (right) were still playing continuous four-hour sets – without toilet breaks – in Nashville bars. By reviving the good-time honky-tonk sound and infusing it with 1990s attitude, BR5-49 are on the other side of the country coin at the recent CMA Awards. This short visit to the UK (with a London gig tomorrow night at the Shepherd's Bush Empire) plugs their latest album, *Big Backyard Beat Show*. Corn Exchange, Cambridge (01223 357851) 7.30pm

Unlike most dance outfits, Red Snapper believe in playing totally live without the aid of computers, samplers or other such gadgetry.

Accrued many times over as one of the country's most exciting live acts, they are on the road to promote their excellent and eclectic new album, *Making Bones*.

Leadmill, Sheffield (0114-275 4500) 8pm



Classical Duncan Hadfield

A NUMBER of world-class singers have already stepped through the Wigmore Hall's doors in the fortnight since the new season began. And now comes the legendary Spanish diva Teresa Berganza. Accompanied by Juan Antonio Alvarez Parejo, the mezzo-soprano airs native repertoire by Granados, Turina and Halffter, as well as further songs by Mussorgsky, Brahms and Rossini.

Wigmore Hall, London W1

(0171-935 2141) 7.30pm

The exciting young ensemble Psappha turns its attention to Frank Zappa (right), with four of the American iconoclast's key compositions which have been specially arranged for the group by Philip Cashian. Aside from the Zappa, there's also room for John Adams's recent quirky Clarinet Concerto, "Gnarly Buttons", with Dov Goldberg taking the solo line.

Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (0161-907 5278) 7.30pm



EDMONTON

LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) 8pm

Tottenham Hale Armageddon Phone for details

Babymother Phone for details

Barney's Great Adventure Phone for details

Divorcee Jack Phone for details

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ♦ Gants Hill Great Expectations 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.50am, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 4pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Saving Private Ryan 2.10pm, 7.20pm There's Something About Mary 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ♦ Highgate Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 12.25pm, 4pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3005) BR: Peckham Rye BabyMother 5.45pm, 7.35pm, 9.25pm Eve's Bayou 6.40pm He Got Game 6.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Saving Private Ryan 5.20pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm The X-Files 4.20pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Lethal Weapon 4 4.55pm, 7.55pm Saving Private Ryan 7.10pm There's Something About Mary 5.10pm, 8.10pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge, BR: Putney Lethal Weapon 4 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4.15pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond Lethal Weapon 4 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.10pm, 4.50pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.50pm, 7.40pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond Cuban 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm The Land Girls 1.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4.15pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Lethal Weapon 4 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4pm, 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricket-Led Lethal Weapons 4 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.21pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 5.50pm, 8.35pm

SUTTON
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sutton Lethal Weapon 4 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm

THAMES
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricket-Led Lethal Weapons 4 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.21pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 5.50pm, 8.35pm

SUDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sudcup Lethal Weapon 4 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4pm, 7.30pm

TOTAL
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Total Lethal Weapon 4 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.21pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 5.50pm, 8.35pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-355 3366) BR: Stratford East BabyMother 9.10pm, 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Horse Whisperer 2.15pm, 5.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

STRATFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Stratford East BabyMother 9.10pm, 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Horse Whisperer 2.15pm, 5.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm

SWANSEA
ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Swansea Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

TOTAL
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Total Lethal Weapon 4 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.21pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 5.50pm, 8.35pm

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ♦ Tunbridge Wells Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WATFORD
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ♦ Tunbridge Wells Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WORCESTER
ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Worcester Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

WYKES
ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Wykies Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

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THEATRE WEST END

WALTON
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Lethal Weapon 4 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 3.25pm, 7.30pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon & South Wimbledon The Horse Whisperer 1.45pm, 5pm Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 3.55pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

WINDSOR
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) ♦ Turnpike Lane Dill To Pagal Hal Phone for details Gharwalli Beharwalli Phone for details Jay Pyar Kisse Hota Hal Phone for details Mahakali Phone for details Salikhanen Phone for details

WORCESTER
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TUESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

NICHOLAS
LEZARD

TELEVISION REVIEW



BEMBRE OF PEOPLE, written by the same conglomeration as the stars of *Orchid Belt*, is about as monastic that civilization is about 5,000 years older than we thought it was. In Quest for Lost Civilization (CB3), he turns around the globe, noting how the pyramids of Giza are in the same configuration as the stars of *Orchid Belt*. He does superimpose a picture of the temples of Angkor Wat do the same for the cathedral of Draca. If you push it a bit, and you're sure he's got it right, too. He also explores the stone circle of Callanish in the outer Hebrides, the rock drawings in Mexico, and the pyramids at Chichen Itza. At which point, alarm bells should start ringing.

Harcourt may be a very long way from being a nutcase, but she has ticked most of the elements on the nutcase's inventory: knowledge of modern-day "yurts," celebrating him as a substitute or other didn't do him any favours. "I don't think today's Dracula can provide the kind of entertainment he's been giving us," he said, which is putting it mildly. Harcourt has the mark of the plumed serpent, artes in Ancient Egypt, Olmec and Mayan art. The Devil is just as good, perhaps more so, a plumed serpent, and you have a similar mixture, but, well, let that pass. So, what's next? Well, maybe. "The Mayans may have built temples which your mother" - which, in the end, were able to predict a solar eclipse in AD 8, the forecast says now, but these temples also predicted the end of the world on December 21, 2012. The Mayans themselves, I am sorry.

I wonder what Lloyd Webber would say, but these temples also predict the end of the world on 22 December 2012. The Mayans themselves, I am sorry.

- 6.00 **Business Breakfast** (82788), 7.00 **News** (1) (62692).
9.00 Kirby (S) (745428), 8.40 **Syle Charage** (S) (705049). 10.00 **Top Tip Challenge** (S) (625775).
10.20 Daily Line (S) (747828), 10.55 **News** (S) (625810).
Regional News, Weather (1) (625815).
- 11.00 **Labour Party Conference**. A debate on Northern Ireland is the centre-piece of this morning's proceedings.
- 1.00 **Newspaper Weather** (1) (622445), 1.30 **Regional News** (1) (62568920).
2.05 Breakfast (S) (62455287), 2.25 **Quinty** (772455).
3.45 The Weather Show (1) (298164).
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2.05 Breakfast (S) (62455287), 2.25 **Quinty** (772455).
3.45 The Weather Show (1) (298164).
- 11.30 **Moving People** (1) (6267), 12.00 **Sesame Street** (S) (715320). 12.30 **Watercolour Challenge** (R) (1) (61879).
- 12.30 **Working Lunch** (4485), 1.00 **Washing** (1) (6252738).
1.15 The Country Home (S) (626107), 2.15 **News** (S) (625810). 2.45 **Dales** (S) (625036). 2.45 **Home and Away** (S) (725723).
3.15 Supermarket Sweep (S) (708223), 3.15 **Space** (S) (715320). 3.45 **TV News** (S) (625810). 4.00 **First Edition V** (625758). 4.15 **Shoe One** (637787).
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